The Impact of AHRC Research

April 2015 – March 2016
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Introduction

Arts and humanities research shapes our understanding of the world around us. By embracing the complex nature of human experience, it allows us to ask provocative questions and challenge our everyday assumptions. Since 2005, the AHRC has funded ground-breaking research across fifty arts and humanities disciplines. As the only UK research funding organisation that supports both arts and humanities research, we play a leading role in nurturing and supporting highly skilled and talented academics in the higher education sector and the wider economy. By promoting collaborative research and encouraging partnerships across sectors, we help to show the importance and relevance of arts and humanities research to society and the economy. Our funding enables advances in knowledge, new methodological approaches, and new ways to address the social, cultural and economic challenges of the day and tomorrow.

Highlights

This report focuses on the AHRC’s impact in:

- engagement and activity within the creative economy
- collaborative projects and policy influence
- human capital and investment in people
- methodological development

The final section of the report provides indicators of the numbers of researchers, studentships, research outputs and the types of research outcomes which AHRC funding generates.

Arts and humanities research makes a fundamental contribution to the knowledge, creative and digital economies. These contributions, as highlighted in the chapters below, can include:

- the impact of research on community participation and inequalities
- new products and content for the creative and digital economies, the experience economy, and heritage tourism
- helping to shape legislation and influencing policy makers
- supporting dynamic and innovative new collaborations to address global challenges
- and, influencing practitioners across a range of sectors and professions.
Arts and humanities research makes a fundamental contribution to the knowledge, creative and digital economies.

A vibrant research ecosystem

As the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014 highlighted, arts and humanities research in the UK is flourishing. The REF outcomes demonstrated the globally competitive quality and vitality of the UK’s arts and humanities research: over 71% of the submissions in these fields were deemed world-leading or internationally excellent. The UK’s arts and humanities community within REF is large, diverse and represents 31.5% of the research community. The strength of the arts and humanities research base means that the UK is a very attractive place to do research. For overseas academic and non-academic institutions and individuals, the UK remains a great place to find research partners to collaborate with (see Chapter 2). Pioneering AHRC funded research in the UK allows universities to deliver cutting-edge teaching in the arts and humanities.

In 2014/15, 20% of research postgraduate students and 21% of taught postgraduates in the UK were focused on the arts and humanities, and 28% of those studying their first degree were doing so within the arts and humanities. The UK’s pre-eminence globally in research-led teaching has major benefits for the UK higher education system, helping to attract new talent to the UK, offering a greater diversity of international students, and supporting the higher education economy (19.9% of HE students within the arts and humanities are from outside the UK). On 31 March 2016, the AHRC was supporting 588 active awards and 1,232 Principal and Co-Investigators at 120 UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Independent Research Organisations.

AHRC-funding leveraging further support for arts and humanities research

AHRC award holders are able to use the funding awarded to leverage additional resources from project partners to enrich and complement the resources needed to produce high quality research. AHRC grants awarded in 2015-16 leveraged £5.5m from over 800 different public, third-sector and private organisations in relation to 230 awards to a value of £40m. The total amount leveraged from all of the research grants that were active on 31st March 2016 stood at over £14.6m.

AHRC-funded projects generate new research questions and initiatives, which attract competitive research funding from other organisations and partners, to the UK research base. Since 2010 twenty-three AHRC award holders have developed research projects that generated prestigious funding worth £14.5m from the European Commission (including the European Research Council, Horizon 2020 and other EC research funding schemes). By March 2016, AHRC award holders had reported 124 new projects which were due to start in 2016 from sources such as the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Wellcome Trust, Save the Children and others, totalling £7.4m. AHRC doctoral training providers are also building capability amongst AHRC-funded doctoral students. For example, 140 AHRC-funded doctoral students won 178 travel and conference bursaries and additional research funding to be used in 2016 to a value of £250,000.
Above: Images from the "The Great British Graphic Novel" AHRC Image sourced from the AHRC project, Reframing the Graphic Novel: Long-Form Adult Comic Narratives in North America and the UK c.1973-82
The Impact of AHRC Research  
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A Creative Economy: Contributions To Economic Growth

University-Industry collaboration offers cutting-edge research and innovative approaches to grow the Creative Economy

Research-enriched content leads to award-winning creative outputs

The success of the AHRC’s pilot Knowledge Exchange Hubs for the Creative Economy offers new approaches to supporting collaborative Research and Development with micro and small businesses

AHRC research supports news ways of understanding the Creative Economy ecosystems across the UK

The Heritage sector is thriving and its attractiveness is shaped by world-leading arts and humanities research

AHRC funding builds research capacity in some of the UK’s flagship cultural and heritage organisations

The Creative Economy

The creative industries remain a vital and rapidly expanding part of the UK’s economy, contributing £133.3 billion in GVA (Gross Value Added in 2014 accounting for 9.7% of the UK economy, and representing the fastest growing part of the UK's economy. In 2014, employment in the creative economy has grown at twice the rate of the rest of the UK economy. Jobs in the creative economy are also highly skilled jobs at low risk of automation, with 59.9% of jobs in creative occupations held by graduates, compared to 32.7% in other sectors.

"The UK creative industries are admired the world over. They shape its reputation abroad and power its economic growth at home. Their success is no accident and their future can be no gamble." - Creative Industries Council, 2016

"The creative economy is not only one of the most rapidly growing sectors of the world economy, but also a highly transformative one in terms of income generation, job creation and export earnings." - Creative Industries Council, 2016 UNESCO and UNDP, Creative Economy Report, 2013

8 DCMS, Creative Industries Economic Estimates (January 2016) pp.16-17
9 DCMS, Creative Industries Economic Estimates: Focus on Exports Focus on Exports (June 2016). The government definition of the Creative Industries are “those industries which have their origin in individual creativity, skill and talent and which have a potential for wealth and job creation through the generation and exploitation of intellectual property” as published in the Creative Industries Mapping Documents 2001 (accessed 23 April 2016).
Spotlight on creative excellence underpinned by world-leading research

Research-enriched content and research-driven approaches to creativity are resulting in award-winning exports for the UK. All the projects covered below arose from the AHRC’s open-call responsive mode schemes.

The recognition of AHRC research underpinned films, documentaries and video games at prestigious national and international awards ceremonies is a testament to this. The UK’s annual British Academy of Film and Television Awards (BAFTA) recognises and rewards creative excellence in the television, film and video games industries. AHRC research has enhanced the development and content and inspired four 2016 BAFTA and Oscars award holders and nominees including:

**Films, Dramas And Documentaries**
The 2014 BAFTA winning (for Best Documentary) and Oscar-nominated (for Best Documentary) Act of Killing was developed by the Genocide and Genre (2008-2011) project, led by Professor Joram Ten Brink at the University of Westminster. Directed by the Co-Investigator, Joshua Oppenheimer, it was a key research output of a project on the use of innovative filmmaking methods to explore how people perform, remember and recount acts of genocidal violence. Joshua Oppenheimer has since directed an accompanying film, The Look of Silence, which draws its questions and inspiration from the initial research and which explores the Indonesian genocide of the 1960s, this time through the point of view of one victim’s family. The Look of Silence was also nominated for a Best Documentary Oscar in 2016.

The Winner of the Specialist Factual category of the BAFTA Television Awards 2016 was Britain’s Forgotten Slave Owners. The documentary was created in collaboration with AHRC- and ESRC-funded research, led by Professor Catherine Hall at UCL, the role and significance of slave ownership in the Caribbean to the formation of Britain project, which provided content and shaped the documentary. The first episode aired on BBC attracted 1.6m viewers. The documentary was also nominated for the Royal Television Society’s 2016 History award.

"Thank you to our partners at University College London whose research was at the heart of this series" David Olusoga Britain’s Forgotten Slave Owners – speech at the BAFTA Television Awards 2016

Research informs award winning programmes in different ways and at different career stages. AHRC doctoral graduate, Dr Kirsten Claiden-Yardley, whose research explored Tudor noble identity and commemoration within the AHRC project Representing Re-formation (2010-2013, led by Professor Philip Lindley at the University of Leicester) was the Production Researcher on the 2016 BAFTA-(for Best Drama series) and Golden Globe Award-winning (for Best Miniseries or Television Film) programme, Wolf Hall. Her role included advising the director Peter Kosminsky prior to the start of filming on historical context, such as specific information about particular events, advice for the Art and Costume departments and the etiquette of dining at the royal court. Claiden-Yardley was also the academic consultant for BBC’s partner web content, iWonder Guides to Tudor England

**Games**
Established in 2010, the Chinese Room, the award-winning game development studio, was an AHRC-underpinned start-up company developed from the 2007 AHRC project on first person video gaming perspectives which underpinned the creativity of the BAFTA winning game Dear Esther (nominated for 5 BAFTAs in 2013). A further AHRC Impact and Engagement award supported the licensing of the game and the development of the company. The company had sold 850,000 units of its BAFTA winning game Dear Esther to a value of US$2Million. The company’s most recent game, Everybody’s Gone to Rapture, which also draws on the outcomes of the AHRC project was funded by Sony Entertainment (US) for release on the PlayStation platform. In 2016, Everybody’s Gone to Rapture had 10 BAFTA nominations and three awards including the award for game innovation.

Below: A still image from The Act of Killing credit: The Act of Killing
2015 saw the completion of the AHRC’s Digital R&D Fund, a research fund offered in partnership with Nesta and: in England, Arts Council England; in Scotland, with Creative Scotland; and in Wales with Arts Council of Wales. The Fund successfully showcased the potential of collaborations between arts and humanities researchers, arts organisations and technology companies. An initial evaluation of the Fund in 2016 by Tom Fleming Creative Consultancy highlights the initial impact of the scheme in England. For example, the Clapping Music Digital R&D Fund project was a partnership between Dr Marcus Pearce and Dr Samantha Duffy at Queen Mary, University of London, London Sinfonietta, and, technology partner, Touchpress. The aim of the project was to create a free iPhone/iPad app based on the music of Steve Reich. Created as a game which becomes progressively more difficult. The speed and accuracy of clapping to music allows researchers to better understand how musical skills develop through an interactive experience. It has also introduced people, and especially children, to the music of a contemporary composer. By October 2015, there had been 75,000 downloads of the app (three times greater than the original target). As a new innovative form of game, the app has had highly successful reviews with the New York Times and The Guardian respectively calling it, “Maddeningly addictive” and “Brilliant – and infuriatingly addictive”. FACT, a British music and youth culture magazine, noted that it “might be the toughest rhythm action game since Rock Band.”

2016 has also seen the culmination of the AHRC’s flagship pilot programme, the Knowledge Exchange Hubs for the Creative Economy. The success of these investments commissioned in 2012 is now helping to shape the AHRC’s approach to supporting stronger research-creative economy collaboration for the future.

New Aesthetic Materials

AHRC research-underpinned spinout (featured in AHRC’s 2014-15 Impact Report) which was developed through Professor David Binn of the University of Central Lancashire’s two AHRC projects has won a series of awards which include: Best Business Start-Up at the 2016 Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE) Award and the 2015 The Mixology North prize for Product of the Year for their material SilicaStone. The company was also shortlisted in the Environmental and Sustainability category for the 2015 Times Higher Education award for Excellence and Innovation in the Arts, and nominated for the Innovation Award at Homes and Gardens Designer Awards 2016 and the Innovative Product Design category in the 2016 Society of British International Design (SBID) awards. The AHRC project had developed prototypes of a new material made of recycled glass, ceramic and mineral waste, with application in the building and architectural sectors. Their patented multidisciplinary research brings together the research strengths of design, craft and art practice and industrial manufacturing.

Spotlight on knowledge exchange initiatives enriching the Creative Economy

Developing dynamic ecosystems across the UK, which could provide the infrastructure for continued university-industry collaboration and future economic growth, was a prime objective for the AHRC’s four-year pilot programme (2012-2016), the Knowledge Exchange Hubs for the Creative Economy (the KE Hubs). The programme established four KE Hubs based in Bristol, Dundee, Lancaster and London.

Over the four years, the KE Hubs have created new knowledge assets, built greater capacity for collaborative R&D, improved productivity, offered health and wellbeing benefits, shaped new approaches to skills development and knowledge exchange, and, created new networks of collaboration. The AHRC’s report on the KE Hubs highlights this impact and the visualisation below showcases, the initial outcomes and outputs of the investment to date. Initial examples of impact have included: new companies successfully bringing innovative products to market (see Mekamon below), shaping and enhancing the local creative ecology (see Dundee and Design below), and, the expansion and growth of creative economy SMEs (see Red Ninja).

Arts and humanities research shaping the future of robotics games

MekaMon, a £220 robot controlled with a phone was launched in 2016 and is planning to scale up production in 2017. Since its launch in 2014, the AHRC-enabled start up business in 2014 has created over thirty prototypes, now employs 10 people and was accepted onto the prestigious Qualcomm Robotics Accelerator programme. Reach Robotics and researchers in play and game theory engaged directly with their target users throughout the design and development of Mecha Monsters, the world’s first robotic gaming system. The company was selected as one of the UK based start-ups to accompany HRH Prince William on the Japan and China ‘Innovation is GREaT’ campaign (March 2015 – February 2016). Silas Adekunle, CEO of Reach Robotics noted, “Collaborations of this sort are quite rare in the field of robotics and I have found them to be invaluable. We’ve now got more robust prototypes because we had users testing and informing our design process, with research input at every stage … REACT’s funding and unique approach to knowledge exchange has provided with me access to high quality research, business support, and sustainable professional relationships that have helped me take my company from start-up to investment.”

“MekaMon’s eerily life-like robotic movement is unlike any other tech-toy I’ve seen. [the robots] promise a new era of hard core gaming experiences.” Andy Robertson, Forbes, 17/11/2016

Shaping the creative ecosystem

The KE Hubs have played a vital role in helping to bring the university to the forefront within a number of local creative ecologies. In Dundee, through the Design in Action hub, the University of Dundee has been able to highlight design as a strategic platform for development. This has contributed to the increasing profile of design within the city and its new designation as the UK’s first City of Design in 2014 and membership of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. Design in Action were a key partner for Dundee’s first Design Festival in May 2016 (http://www.dundeedesignfestival.com/)

“Design in Action (DiA) were key partners in achieving the designation of UNESCO City of Design... DiA’s membership of the city’s Implementation Group influenced and advanced ideas for the UNESCO City of Design launch and the first Dundee Design Festival in May 2016. DiA has also been key in helping establish the Design led Business Innovation context for business in the V&A Museum of Design Dundee; working closely with partners to establish both economic and cultural value in building new thinking for future investment.” Stewart Murdoch, Director of Leisure & Communities, Dundee City Council.
Building SME capacity for collaborative R&D and growth in international markets

Red Ninja, a Liverpool-based design led technology company began with 3 members of staff and little experience of working with universities or local authorities, even though a core ambition was to create innovative technologies for smart cities and health, which required greater collaboration with the public sector. Through direct engagement with the Creative Exchange hub’s Open Planning project, Red Ninja now employs five times as many staff and has significantly increased its turnover by eleven-fold. By exploring the limitations of public engagement within the urban planning process, the project created new ways of using narrative techniques and digital technologies to visualise and better articulate design proposals put forward by organisations, making them easier to understand by the public. As a result, a new digital portal and app was developed allowing the public to engage in local council planning decisions. Red Ninja highlight that this has helped them become an international business giving them new business opportunities in Madrid and in Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

“The Creative Exchange process was fantastic for us as we invested much more of our own time into the project to enable us to produce IP that we could commercialise. The learning of working with the city data sets as part of the Creative Exchange has enabled us to design and develop commercial products with a multinational energy company on a smart energy platform that will enable sustainable urban developments. Commercially this was valuable to us and is worth ten times the financial reward than the Creative Exchange project... Working with Creative Exchange has been a significant springboard to growing the business”. Lee Omar, the CEO of Red Ninja (software company)

“Collaborations of this sort are quite rare in the field of robotics and I have found them to be invaluable”.

AHRC invested £16m in four KE Hubs for the creative economy (2012 – 2016)

273 creative economy projects operating in parallel with an intensive research agenda

1700 Number of Innovators engaged with

£4.3m Delivered into creative and cultural organisations

Outputs

208 jobs created

17 new companies launched

494 innovative outputs created

192 products launched

436 academic outputs produced

Outcomes and Impact

£4m further funding for businesses

£31.8m further funding in academic research and training

Improved collaboration between universities and the Creative Economy

New and novel approaches to IP and contracting

Strengthening the role of universities within regions and place

Data collected and reported by the KE Hubs for the Creative Economy
Understanding the Creative Economy

The legacy of the AHRC’s ground-breaking Brighton Fuse project (2011-2013) continues to be felt. Brighton Fuse highlighted how new research methodologies could be explored to better understand the creative ecosystem and how it was shaped, thereby, providing the underpinning evidence for Brighton and Hove’s £170m City Deal in 2014. The research explored two types of businesses described as ‘fused’ and ‘superfused’. Fused companies were those that brought together arts and humanities skills with science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills (STEM). Superfused companies were those that combine Arts, humanities and STEM skills and also embed digital technology skills in all aspects of their organisation. The Brighton Fuse research highlighted the significance of arts and humanities research in relation to economic growth, noting that 45% of entrepreneurs were found to have an arts and humanities background. Firms that ‘fused’, performed strongly generating growth rates of 14.7%. In addition, Companies that were ‘superfused’ fused companies were those that were likely to grow, and more likely to produce transformative innovations. Importantly, the evidence highlighted that there was an impact of arts skills in the UK economy which extended beyond the creative industries. Specifically, the report noted that “fused” companies were 2% more likely to bring “radical innovations” to market, demonstrated 8% higher sales growth than STEM-only firms, and that they constituted a significant proportion of the UK’s employed, i.e. these companies employ 3.5 million people, a fifth of all workers. 

Cultural institutions and heritage sites

The museums and galleries sector is a vital part of the UK’s cultural tourism offer, with heritage tourism in England alone contributing over £21.7 billion GVA to the UK economy (2% of national GVA) and employing over 320,000 people. In 2015, visits to historic attractions (such as historic houses and castles) in England continued to increase, showing a 5% increase on the previous year’s figures. Historic England highlights that visitor numbers to other prominent heritage sites have also increased. They note that between 2010 and 2015, annual visitor figures to Stonehenge, which has benefitted from research investments by AHRC, has increased by 35 per cent to 1.35m visitors. The annual DCMS Taking Part Survey highlighted that nearly three quarters of adults (73.2% or approx. 40 million people) in England visited a heritage site at least once in 2015-16, showing a significant increase of 3.3% since the survey began in 2005-06. Heritage is vital to the UK’s ability to attract international tourism. There were over 15.3 million heritage-related international visits in 2014 which have steadily increased since 2010. International tourists are estimated to have spent £9.86bn on heritage-related visits in 2014. By 2025, the total contribution of tourism is forecast at £324 billion and 4.6 million jobs; an Oxford Economics study in 2010 highlighted that the largest single factor cited for non-business overseas visitors to the UK was tourism. The sector also notes that the use of digital communications (other than a website) continues to increase, further highlighting the importance of collaborative initiatives which bring together creative and cultural organisations with innovative digital technology and digital humanities research.

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15 Ibid.
Changing practices at ancient heritage sites to transform the visitor experience

Glastonbury Abbey in Somerset, renowned for over 1000 years as the site of the earliest church in England and the potential burial place of King Arthur, is an important cultural and tourist site, which receives over 100,000 visitors every year. AHRC-funded research has helped the Abbey to develop an engagement and visitor strategy for the twenty-first century.

Although the site holds international historical significance, previous archaeological research on the Abbey was not accessible to inform how the site was presented to visitors. Findings from an AHRC-funded project led by Professor Roberta Gilchrist, investigating the Abbey’s archive of archaeological excavations have transformed how the site is understood. The project, led by the University of Reading, uncovered the records of 36 seasons of excavations and unearthed previously unknown prehistoric, Roman and Saxon occupations on the site. It received further AHRC funding in 2015 to produce new visitor resources for the Abbey such as visual reconstructions, interactive digital resources, a new guidebook, and a range of educational resources for schools and families. The digital reconstructions will allow visitors to envision the scale of the site, what it looked like and what its ground plan and ‘foot print’ would have been.

Both phases of the project have had a major impact on the Abbey, triggering the development of a Communications and Training Plan. In addition, a series of three Knowledge Transfer workshops were run for Abbey staff on engaging with families and young people, developing object handling collections and tactile learning resources. There was immediate impact: the Abbey successfully applied for funding from Arts Council England to develop their own tactile handling collection; they have re-ordered the storage and recording of museum objects to follow the framework adopted by the project, and they are planning to implement changes in the labelling and accessibility of collections.

The Abbey is also currently developing a major application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for which the lead researcher has worked with the Trustees and architects to develop. The archaeological research has directly informed planning for the new development, including interpretation, access, zoning and layout of paths. Based on this close collaboration, the Abbey itself has contributed £130,000 worth of resources across the original project and its follow-on phase. The project has also been successful in drawing in over £35,000 from other funding sources to support extra work. In 2016, Current Archaeology named Gilchrist, the 2016 Archaeologist of the Year.

The project was led by Professor Roberta Gilchrist at the University of Reading and took place between 2009 and 2013. It went on to receive AHRC Follow-On Funding for Impact and Engagement in 2015.

Arts and humanities research is essential to the life of the UK’s cultural institutions. AHRC funding enhances this through sustaining research, innovative new ideas and concepts, and enabling strengthened collaborations between academics and the wider sector. The AHRC’s Independent Research Organisations are able to both collaborate and lead on major intellectual projects that lead to new ways of seeing, understanding and interpreting the world around us, its culture and its history. Direct funding into these research projects brings benefits not only to the organisations involved but also to their visitors. This is public engagement and impact underpinned by research of the highest quality, and delivers immediate and long-term returns to the UK.
Showcasing Heritage

Many of the AHRC’s IROs are the backbone of the UK’s heritage industry – a sector at the heart of UK tourism which brings an annual investment of almost £50 billion and supports over a million jobs.23 The research carried out by these great cultural institutions underpins the success of the sector, enriching the sites visited by the public and helping them to remain attractive and competitive. Heritage sites focusing on the UK’s royal legacy are particularly popular among tourists, with visitors from abroad spending upwards of £500 million a year on these attractions.24

The National Portrait Gallery received AHRC funding in 2007 to undertake research on the Tudor period, an era which attracts great interest at home and internationally, thanks to the world-famous legends inspired by Tudor monarchs. The research resulted in ‘The Real Tudors’ (September 2014 – July 2015), an exhibition presenting the most comprehensive selection of portraits of Tudor monarchs that has ever been brought together. Thanks to the exhibition’s success in London, it went on to be shown in extended form in Paris at the Musée du Luxembourg (March 2015 – July 2015), where it attracted over 120,000 visitors. The project also contributed to developments in the heritage science processes used to investigate paintings, which have been taken up by practitioners across the world, including scientists in Australia. The methods help researchers to uncover the history of painting without causing any, or with only minimal, damage ensuring that these important historic artefacts can be enjoyed for many generations to come.

Growing research capability and international research reputations

IRO status has offered these organisations greater recognition as research-active organisations with vibrant research environments. It has strengthened their international standing and their capacity to collaborate on large-scale and ambitious research programmes. In 2004-05, the British Museum received approximately £130,000 per annum in research funding, since becoming an IRO this now averages at about £2.5 million per year. This increased esteem and capacity underpinned the British Museum’s ability to win a €7 million European Research Council (ERC) Synergy grant, one of only 13 made in 2013. The Beyond Boundaries: Religion, Region, Language and the State project is led by the British Museum, the British Library and SOAS.

“IRO status is extremely valuable in supporting projects that enhance the Library’s international role and reputation – particularly through engagement in those regions of the world, including South Asia and the Middle East, whose cultures and histories are reflected most strongly in the Library’s collections.” Dr James Perkins, Research and Postgraduate Development Manager, British Library

“We [The Tate in London, Liverpool and St Ives] have gone on to achieve almost £5.3 million in successful research applications, many from the AHRC but also from a number of other research funding bodies who undoubtedly allowed us to apply or at least considered our application either as lead or collaborator more seriously because of our Independent Research Organisation status. Our status has allowed us to approach collaborators and partners as peers and we have now had funded research collaborations or partnerships with over 40 organisations worldwide.” Caroline Collier, Director of Partnerships and Programmes, Tate

Since 2006, AHRC has made 63 awards to the IROs, enabling 117 researchers at the UK’s prestigious cultural and heritage organisations to run and participate in research projects.

22 An Independent Research Organisation is an institution outside of academia with the in-house capacity to carry out research that extends the national research base. There are currently eighteen IROs eligible for AHRC funding.
23 https://www.hlf.org.uk/about-us/value-heritage

2016 marks the tenth anniversary of the AHRC providing funding to research taking place in independent research organisations (IROs).22 IRO status has been instrumental in these organisations developing their research capacity, helping them to secure funding from national and international funders and make a distinctive and important contribution to the UK’s research base. In turn, AHRC funded projects carried out by IROs have had a wide range of impacts, from the shaping the heritage and tourism sectors to supporting community building. The IROs have been directly awarded approx. £8.4m from AHRC, which have been used to leverage a further £6m for those research projects.

Spotlight on the UK’s research-intensive cultural and heritage organisations

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2016 marks the tenth anniversary of the AHRC providing funding to research taking place in independent research organisations (IROs).22 IRO status has been instrumental in these organisations developing their research capacity, helping them to secure funding from national and international funders and make a distinctive and important contribution to the UK’s research base. In turn, AHRC funded projects carried out by IROs have had a wide range of impacts, from the shaping the heritage and tourism sectors to supporting community building. The IROs have been directly awarded approx. £8.4m from AHRC, which have been used to leverage a further £6m for those research projects.
**Prioritising community engagement**

AHRC-funded research at the Science Museum has led to an exhibition which has had community engagement at its heart since the very beginning. The Enfield Exchange project saw the historic telephone exchange returned by the Science Museum to the London borough it originated from. As well as providing important insights into community cohesion, the project brought together diverse groups of Enfield residents by revealing this piece of hidden history.

The telephone was in operation from 1925 to 1960 when, as the last of its kind to be taken out of service in the Greater London area, it moved to the Science Museum as an exhibition piece. During the project the exchange was displayed in Enfield Museum to explore how returning the historical object to its geographical roots could help community groups to engage with their heritage and local area. During its time at Enfield Museum oral histories were gathered from those who visited, ranging from local inhabitants interested in their community history to former BT employees.

These narratives are now displayed alongside the exchange as part of the Information Age exhibition, a permanent display which opened in 2014. In the first five weeks following its opening, the display attracted 112,000 visitors; a particularly impressive number given that the display is situated in a space that was previously under-populated by visitors.

‘IRO status has resulted in more approaches from HEIs to partner in their projects, and seems to have influenced them to consider us as a more equitable player in the process. Before, we might have received a last minute request for a letter of support; now our staff are more likely to be invited at an early stage to help develop research questions and projects. This is very welcome!’ Rebecca Bailey, Head of Education and Outreach, Historic Environment Scotland.

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**Research-enriched exhibitions**

Twelve of the IROs are prestigious national museums, galleries or libraries, offering free entry which ensures that they are accessible to all members of the public, and with a mission to encourage a broader spectrum of people to visit museums and galleries. The exhibitions held across these IROs are diverse, enabling visitors to explore a rich variety of topics through creative and innovative media. They make up an important part of our civil society, encouraging learning, debate and reflection. Research underpins the content, design and the approaches to conservation and care of the material objects exhibited. Research offers audiences new ways to both inform and experience these cultural moments. In 2015-16, Britain’s national museums and galleries attracted more than 47.6m visitors and seven of those holding IRO status were in 2015’s top ten UK visitor attractions, collectively attracting 29.1m visitors. Their impact goes beyond the experience of those who visit and the broader cultural sector; they hold a high economic value, supplying a significant passing trade thanks to their high visitor numbers and being a major employer in the cultural sector.

Since becoming an IRO, the British Museum, the most visited attraction in 2015, has hosted five large-scale exhibitions based on AHRC-funded research which have attracted almost half a million visitors. One of these is ‘Hajj: Journey to the heart of Islam’, the first major exhibition dedicated to the Hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca which is central to the Muslim faith. Based on research exploring British communities’ own unique experiences of Hajj, it provided new perspectives for Muslim visitors on their own cultural practices, and helped thousands of non-Muslim visitors to learn about a religious community in Britain. The exhibition in 2012 attracted 140,000 visitors over twelve weeks, and inspired similar exhibitions in Paris, Doha and Leiden between autumn 2013 and summer 2014 which attracted 216,000 visitors in total (66,000 in Paris, 88,000 in Leiden and 62,000 in Doha).

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25 This was in order of ranking: British Museum (1), The National Gallery (2), Tate Modern (5), V&A (6), Science Museum (7), Tower of London (9) and the National Association of Leading Visitor Attractions website http://www.alva.org.uk/details.cfm?pid=423

26 Association of Leading Visitor Attractions website http://www.alva.org.uk/details.cfm?pid=423
**Bridging practitioners**

IROs play an important role for AHRC funded doctoral students on collaborative programmes, specifically the Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP) scheme launched in 2012 where students divide their research time between a university and an external organisation. IROs are supervising or have supervised 77, over half of the CDP doctoral students since the scheme began. These programmes offer students a unique opportunity to experience two quite distinctive types of research environment and provide them with the skills to run projects between different professional settings. These programmes also play an important role in strengthening links between research departments within HEIs and non-academic organisations, enriching the UK’s research base as a whole.

Paul Naylor is currently working on his doctorate on Arabic writing with the British Library and the University of Birmingham. As part of his doctoral research, he has been cataloguing the British Library’s Arabic manuscript material from West Africa, which enabled him to shape their exhibition, ‘West Africa Word Symbol Song’. This gave Paul invaluable insight into the planning and staging of a major cultural event which, alongside the academic research expertise he is developing, has provided him with a dynamic skillset fit for this dynamic research sector. Paul’s involvement also enriched the overall content of the exhibition, which saw more than 22,500 visitors, 26% of whom had never been to the British Library before. The exhibition generated over £150,000 in ticket sales and almost £115,000 in the sale of books and merchandise.

“The set-up of the Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP) is a very effective way of fostering collaboration. Students gain the experience of working cross-institutionally and develop a broader, transferable skillset, including negotiation, partnership, teamwork and interdisciplinarity. The considerable research contribution made by doctoral students to IROs helps them to build capacity and have a major impact on the UK’s research base.” – Dr JD Hill, Research Manager, British Museum

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AHRC awards often include the development of exhibitions as a showcase for research undertaken by AHRC award-holders. These will typically involve collaborative activities with national, regional or local museums, archives and libraries, arts and other cultural organisations. These activities showcase AHRC-funded research, interpret research findings and communicate them as a means of engaging non-academic audiences.

By March 2016, AHRC award holders, including doctoral students, had reported 208 exhibitions in 2015 and 2016 across the UK and in Hungary, Poland and Spain, to which their research had contributed. This included, for example: **Silent Explosion: Ivor Davies and Destruction in Art** (November 2015 – March 2016), the biggest exhibition of a solo artist, and one of Wales’ leading contemporary artists, ever staged by the National Museum Wales. The exhibition took place at the National Museum Cardiff and was their first exhibition where they presented historical performance as a multimedia installation using the conservation/curatorial method of remediation. Judit Bodor, a Collaborative Doctoral Award student, was co-curator of the exhibition; she was supervised by Professor Heike Roms at Aberystwyth University, who was also research adviser to the exhibition. At the V&A Museum of Childhood, the **Alice Look exhibition May 2015 - November 2015** reached 218,000 people. The exhibition was one of the research outcomes of the AHRC Early Career Fellowship, **Addressing Alice: The Emergence of a Style Icon** (2014-2015), held by Dr Kiera Vaclavik at Queen Mary, University of London who researches the field of children’s literature and culture. The exhibition brought together garments, photographs, rare editions and illustrations to mark the 150th anniversary of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland.
Increasing research capacity to enhance some of Britain’s most celebrated historic sites

Historic Royal Palaces, which conserves some of the most significant historic buildings in Britain, including the Tower of London and Hampton Court Palace, is AHRC’s newest Independent Research Organisation. The research driven agenda within the organisation has already enriched visitor engagement with some of Britain’s most famous historic sites.

Work as a project partner on earlier AHRC projects paved the way to the Historic Royal Palaces gaining IRO status. In 2009, Hampton Court Palace staged a performance of John Heywood’s ‘Play of the Weather’, a culmination of the collaboration between Oxford Brookes University, the Schtanhaus Theatre Company and Historic Royal Palaces. The research focused on how the setting for the play impacted the way in which it was understood by the audience - these insights shaped the performance at Hampton Court, leading to new arrangements for seating and for entrances, exits and movements around the hall and defining the way that the actors and the audience interacted. The pioneering approach to performance not only helped curatorial staff to enhance the visitor experience, but also enabled the palaces to pilot the use of performance as research in its interpretive work.

The collaboration helped to generate new practices in the display of major heritage sites, leading to an increase in tourism revenue – Hampton Court Palace reported an increase of 43% in visitor numbers during 2009 (equating to more than 115,000 extra visitors), and a sustained increase in following years. Michael Day, CEO of Historic Royal Palaces, attributed a ‘pivotal role’ to the research project, commenting that it had, ‘an extremely positive impact on day visitors’.

The Palaces have continued to enhance their research capacity, more recently with a project focusing on the centenary of the First World War. The research helped to increase audience engagement with the Tower of London’s ‘Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red’, a display of more than 800,000 ceramic poppies which attracted over five million visitors. The project, led by researchers at the University of Birmingham and Cardiff University, resulted in ‘Why Remember?’, an online learning programme through which thousands of visitors were able to increase their understanding of and share their own views and memories of the centenary; over 850,000 children in the UK, US and Canada watched a broadcast at the national assembly from the Tower of London on 10th November 2014 with content based around the ‘Why Remember?’ questions. These now form an important collection, preserving memories relating to the First World War as first-hand memories become increasingly scarce.

“It is a huge milestone for us as an organisation, and we’re thrilled to have achieved this recognition for the research which informs everything we do at Historic Royal Palaces.” Historic Royal Palaces Head of Research, Wendy Hitchmough

Independent Research Organisation status, gained by the Palaces in August 2015, enables them to build on their past contributions to leading research and apply directly for Research Council funding to develop their own research projects. The project, ‘Staging the Henrician Court’ was led by Professor Thomas Betteridge (then Oxford Brookes University) with Professor Greg Walker (University of Edinburgh) as Co-Investigator between 2008 and 2011. The Significance of the Centenary was led by Dr Joanne Sayner (University of Birmingham) with Dr Jenny Kidd (Cardiff University) as Co-Investigator between 2013 and 2014.
The AHRC supports cross-organisational, cross-sector, cross-disciplinary and transnational work to address research questions and research challenges which explore complex social and economic issues. This gives access to new and enhanced knowledge, skills and resources, and ensures that UK research leadership is matched by funding for our research communities to benefit from wider engagement.

Research produced by individuals and that produced collaboratively generates excellent work and leads to effective outcomes. Since 2005, it has been a strategic imperative of the AHRC to support new initiatives to encourage collaboration, where appropriate to the research. The research community has responded innovatively to the benefits of this type of working. Collaborative research in the arts and humanities harnesses the intellectual capacity of researchers and stimulates new forms of interaction within and across disciplines, and beyond the academy.

Supporting arts and humanities researchers to maximise the benefits of collaboration remains a priority for AHRC. In 2016, this was exemplified by:

- The recognition of the role of arts and humanities research in addressing global challenges and sustainable development goals through the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). Which in 2016, allowed AHRC to make 105 GCRF research awards.
- The launch of the Open World Research Initiative (OWRI) involving 17 HEIs, 18 disciplines, research on 22 languages and over 100 partners. This £17m investment over a four-year period explores the central role languages play in relation to key contemporary issues such as social cohesion, migration, security, health, business and diplomacy; and will have a substantial impact on the study of, and research on, modern languages in the UK.
- The AHRC’s continued involvement in building the legacy of the AHRC-led RCUK Cross-Council Connected Communities programme.

Co-created research generates widespread benefits

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CREATIVE MULTILINGUALISM. The OWRI Creative Multilingualism project led by the University of Oxford together with Birmingham City University, SOAS, and the universities of Cambridge, Pittsburgh and Reading investigates the interconnection between linguistic diversity and creativity.

CROSS-LANGUAGE DYNAMICS. The OWRI Cross-Language Dynamics project explores the central role that languages play in relation to key contemporary issues, such as social cohesion, migration, health, business and diplomacy. Led by the University of Manchester along with the University of Durham and the School of Advanced Study, University of London.

LANGUAGE ACTS AND WORLDMAKING. The OWRI Language Acts and Worldmaking project led by King’s College London with Queen Mary, University of London, the University of Westminster and the Open University explores how learning a language gives greater cultural understanding of the world through the multilingual and multicultural lens of Iberian languages, empires and zones.

MULTILINGUALISM: EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS, TRANSFORMING SOCIETIES (MEITS). Led by the University of Cambridge, with Queen’s University Belfast and the universities of Edinburgh and Nottingham, OWRI MEITS, through six interlocking research strands investigates how the insights gained from stepping outside a single language, culture and mode of thought are vital to individuals and societies.

The launch of the What Works Centre for Wellbeing in collaboration with the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Public Health England, the Department for Health, Cabinet Office, the Big Lottery Fund, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills, Department for Communities and Local Government, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Department for Work and Pensions, Local Government Association, BT, and the Office for National Statistics investigates the interconnection between linguistic diversity and creativity.

The majority of AHRC research awards are collaborative: 83% of all active awards on 31 March 2016, involving over 1,200 researchers, were collaborative. Of these, 53 awards were exploratory networking grants bringing researchers together in new ways and drawing perspectives from a variety of sectors to encourage innovative thinking. This more speculative developmental work is crucial to stimulating new ideas for future projects tackling major issues.

Knowledge Exchange remains a core element in all the AHRC’s funding schemes, through Pathways to Impact for individual grants to tailored schemes such as the Follow-on Fund for Impact and Engagement. Collectively, the Research Councils play a leading role in fostering knowledge exchange. Funding from the Research Councils was highlighted as the highest source of funding for such activities, in the 2016 report, The Changing State of Knowledge Exchange: UK Academic Interactions with External Organisations 2005-2015. The report was based on the second Survey of Academics which focused on over 18,000 UK academics’ knowledge exchange activities between 2012 and 2015.


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The report was the result of the second Survey of Academics which was funded by AHRC, ESRC, EPSRC, MRC, NERC, BBSRC and HEFCE and co-ordinated by NCUB. A. Hughes, C. Lawson et al, The Changing State of Knowledge Exchange (2016).

This figure relates to 422 research awards active on 31st March 2016 of which 367 had co-investigators (including awards with other formal project partners) and a further 45 awards which had project partners but without a listed academic co-investigator.
Overall, 31% of arts and humanities respondents had received funding from the research councils to support their knowledge exchange activities; 28% of the arts and humanities respondents had received that funding from the AHRC with smaller proportions of arts and humanities researchers receiving knowledge exchange funding from each of the other six Research Councils. The distribution of knowledge exchange funding also acts as an indicator of arts and humanities researchers’ engagement in multidisciplinary research and knowledge exchange activities; AHRC funding for external activities had also benefitted researchers who identified with the other five broad disciplinary categories (Health sciences; Biology, Chemistry and Veterinary Medicine; Physics and Mathematics; Engineering and Material sciences; and, Social sciences). Notably, engagement with the third sector was more prevalent than engagement with the private and public sectors across respondents from all disciplines. Discipline groups with the highest share of respondents reporting third sector engagement were the arts and humanities (49%), the social sciences (49%), and health sciences (48%). 82% of those arts and humanities researchers engaged with the third sector had been enabled by research council funding. The report also explored the regional focus of academic engagement activities. Although regional focus differed by the type of engagement, type of institution and within each region, the survey noted that the arts and humanities, the health sciences, and, the social sciences typically had a stronger regional focus. Knowledge exchange also has an impact on teaching and the student experience. More than half of the arts and humanities respondents (54%) noted the impact of their knowledge exchange activities on their teaching, particularly how they presented material. In addition, more than a third (37%) felt that it had increased the employability of their students, and the arts and humanities reported the highest proportion of respondents (23%) who believed that it had led to an increase in the entrepreneurial skills of their students.

Arts and humanities researchers’ engagement activities are also significantly integrated within the creative, cultural and heritage economies. Over 42% reported engagement with museums and galleries, and 45% reported collaboration with the performing arts/cultural sector with nearly a quarter of respondents engaged with the heritage and tourism sector. This year’s Impact Report explores the value of collaboration and its impact by concentrating on three areas: community-based partnerships, public policy relevant engagements, and, internationally-focused collaborations.

Communities

Since 2010, the AHRC-led cross-council Connected Communities programme has been supporting world-leading research with community collaboration at its very heart. The scheme brings together university and community partners at every stage of the research process to explore how these different types of expertise can be best brought together to respond to the challenges of the modern world. Over the last six years it has fostered partnerships between over 700 academics and 500 non-academic organisations and funded over 300 projects focusing on issues ranging from health and wellbeing and civil society to environmental sustainability and heritage.

The scheme’s impacts are significant and wide-ranging; some of the most profound impacts have been for individual project participants, many of whom have benefitted emotionally and socially from the opportunity to engage with their community, learn new skills and improve their confidence and self-esteem. Individuals and groups have also benefited from the many ‘products’ which have come from projects, such as guidance for practitioners, software and apps, and objects or artefacts. The organisations which have carried out the projects, whether university-based or non-academic, report institutional impacts relating to the way that partnership and community-based research is understood and carried out – this new understanding has the potential to change the face of future research in this area. More broadly, it appears that a significant cultural change is emerging as a result of the programme, where universities and community partners are forming long-term, substantive relationships. These infrastructural changes have also put the ideas of impact and legacy into new perspective, showing that the assessment values currently used do not capture the whole picture and that there is a need for a more intricate set of measures in order to fully appreciate the value of community-based research.

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28 ESRC – 5.4%; BBSRC – 0.2%; EPSRC – 1.7%; MRC – 0.2%; NERC 0.3%; STFC – 0.1%. In turn AHRC funding had also supported researchers identifying with other disciplines areas: 1% of Health Sciences researchers; 0.3% of Biology, Chemistry and Veterinary Sciences; 2% of Physics and Mathematical Sciences; 1.3% of Engineering and Material Sciences; 5.9% of Social Sciences.
29 Ibid, p.114
30 Ibid, p.117
31 Ibid, p.109
32 Connected Communities is a cross-Council programme led by the AHRC in partnership with the ESRC, EPSRC, NERC and MRC. https://connected-communities.org/
Supporting Dementia Care through Design Research

Currently 750,000 people live with dementia in the UK, and this figure is expected to double over the next thirty years with associated annual costs of £20bn. In the absence of a cure, innovative and cost-efficient interventions that optimise care and treatment are urgently required. Two AHRC funded research projects have led to new designs which have been adopted in the day-to-day practice of healthcare professionals working with dementia patients in the UK and further field.

Work on the use of Multi-Sensory Environments (MSEs) in alleviating dementia symptoms has led to a Design Guidebook which has assisted healthcare professionals and designers of care homes. The research team led by Dr Anke Jakob at Kingston University explored the use of MSEs as a therapeutic intervention in managing behavioural dementia symptoms, and working with Care UK, used the research findings to develop evidence-based design recommendations which form the basis of the guidebook. The publication has been used to inform the design of new MSEs in a number of healthcare facilities, including Coombe Hill Manor in Kingston upon Thames and the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home in Omaha, USA. The information from the guide was also used by Historic Royal Palaces in the creation of the health and wellbeing programme ‘Sensory Palaces,’ which enables audiences who face barriers such as dementia to engage with the heritage of the historic palaces.

The second project saw AHRC funding enable Professor Paul Rodgers, a Design Fellow, to be embedded in Alzheimer Scotland, which brought great benefits to both the researcher and the organisation. Rodgers’ research used accounts from people living with dementia to create a series of ‘Perfect Day’ activity cards. The cards challenged current preconceptions and have been distributed to dementia resource centres where they are being used to help improve care services. This service design intervention enabled people living with dementia to be included within the development of personalised care plans and is improving the day-to-day activities of people living with dementia and their carers.

Rodgers’ work with people living with dementia has received recognition that has resulted in his appointment as a Specialist Advisor to a think tank called RESEC (Research into Specialist and Elderly Care).

“Cards are most useful when developing or revising a care plan because it enables a person with dementia to better articulate his/her desires and enables creation of a more personalised care plan.” Managing Partner and Founder of Candesic Limited, Dr Leonid Shapiro MD PhD.

Dr Anke Jakob, based at Kingston University, was the PI on The Multi Sensory Environment (MSE) in dementia care: the role of design project (2013-2015). Professor Paul Rodgers carried out his Fellowship (2014-2016) while at Northumbria University.
Bringing stories to life to create communities among the elderly

The UK’s ageing population has led to a major increase in care homes over recent years. Older people living in these settings often struggle with a sense of loss, having left behind a lifetime of familiar objects and surroundings. The Tangible Memories project co-designed new digital technologies to support the creation of communities within care homes, enabling residents to share their stories with each other and creating a stronger sense of connectedness within the home.

The research team worked with care home residents and carers to co-design an app for storytelling, enabling staff to build up a more personal picture of residents’ backgrounds and encouraging more interaction with other residents. The research has fed into the design of a rocking chair which plays sounds to trigger reminiscence among the older generation – a therapy which brings particular benefits to sufferers of dementia. Tangible Memories recently received further AHRC funding to co-create intergenerational spaces in care homes where older people can engage with evocative objects, in addition to using the app, to share their stories and life histories. These novel care techniques have already been rolled out in three care homes in Bristol, and are currently being implemented with three further care organisations.

“[Connected Communities] allows us, as academics, to work in very different ways with communities of people”

Dr Helen Manchester, Lead Researcher on the Tangible Memories project.
Using heritage to build a stronger community and provide locals with life opportunities

Caerau Iron Age hillfort, located across Ely and Caerau, two of Cardiff’s suburbs, is one of the city’s most important archaeological sites. Historically a major power centre for the whole region surrounding Cardiff, the suburbs in which the hillfort sits now face significant social and economic problems and the area had become increasingly stigmatised. Connected Communities has supported the project through a number of small grants since 2012, enabling archaeologists from Cardiff University to work with local community organisations to engage local people in their shared history and challenge marginalisation.

From the outset the needs of the community have been put at the very heart of the research. Centred on the Iron Age Caerau Hillfort, the project has run a series of initiatives involving the local community, particularly local schools and long-term unemployed people. These initiatives, which have included archaeological digs, exhibitions showcasing project findings and the development of heritage trails on the hillfort, have helped to realise the potential of the impressive heritage assets of the area. Participants have reported a greater pride in their area, feeling more confident, improved health and have developed new skills. Just as importantly, the project has helped challenge the stigma associated with the area. The success of the project was recognised at the 2014 NCCPE Engage Competition where it was named the overall winner and given a prize of £2,500 to develop or share their engagement work with others.

More recently, the project team have used their experience of community-based research to explore the legacies of co-produced heritage research and what motivates people to participate in projects such as CAER Heritage. This will reveal how those who may not typically have an interest can be encouraged to participate, providing community-based researchers with the tools to engage more local residents and ensure wider impact of their work.

"I suffer quite a bit from depression so it’s given me drive to get out of the house, get involved, become part of a team. You know I sort of stick to myself a lot so+ I’ve talked to more people here in the last two weeks than I have in a long time so it’s pretty+ for me it’s cool like you know. It’s given me a bit of drive you and picked myself up, given me a boost, which I’m really grateful for."

Participant, 2013

**The various CAER projects have been led by Dr David Watt from Cardiff University. See also the AHRC’s CAER Heritage Project (2016) film.**
Informing policy and policy makers

Arts and humanities researchers play an important role in influencing and informing public policy and policy makers, and in shaping practice across a wide range of policy stakeholders in the UK and overseas. These stakeholders can range from government department to local authorities, other public sector and civil society organisations. AHRC supports such activities by enhancing research-led initiatives, offering targeted opportunities, offering capability building initiatives and actively raising awareness of the value of arts and humanities research to public policy. AHRC awards are highly collaborative; an analysis undertaken last year showed that AHRC research grants active in 2014/15 involved collaborations with 88 government departments, local government departments and related public bodies.

Evidence of arts and humanities researchers’ policy-related engagement

Specifically in relation to public sector and policy engagement, the second Survey of Academics highlighted that 26% of arts and humanities respondents had engaged in activities with public sector organisations. The majority of arts and humanities respondents believed that their research was of relevance to non-commercial external organisations, including the public sector (68%) and 35% of respondents reported that their research had been applied by a non-commercial. Of the arts and humanities researchers who engaged with the public sector, 50% had received funding from the Research Councils. The majority of this funding was sourced from the AHRC.

All AHRC applicants for research awards are encouraged to consider the different opportunities for the dissemination of, and wider engagement with, their research. AHRC funding has supported a wide array of policy engagement activities. AHRC researchers have, to date, reported on their engagement and influence across twenty sectors of policy influence within researchfish©. The most prevalent areas are: Culture, Heritage, Museums and Collections (20%), Education (17%), Communities and Social Services/Policy (13%), and Creative Economy (10%) are unsurprising. The next six are also policy areas which have long recognised how the arts and humanities research enhances understanding and supports meaningful policy development. These include: Healthcare (8%), Digital/Communication/Information Technologies (including Software) (7%), Environment (5%), Leisure Activities, including Sports, Recreation and Tourism (5%), Security, Diplomacy (5%), and Construction (2%). Other areas highlighted include Financial Services, and Management Consultancy (9 instances reported), Energy (8 instances), Agriculture, Food and Drink (8 instances), Pharmaceuticals and Medical Biotechnology (6 instances), Manufacturing, including Industrial Biotechnology (4 instances). With two instances reported apiece, were examples of policy influence on: Retail; Transport; Aerospace, Defence and Marine; and, Electronics.

AHRC researchers on 139 awards reported 240 instances of informing and influencing policy stakeholders in 2015-16. The geographical reach of these 240 examples reported can be seen in Figure 1. Just over three-quarters of the instances reported relate to policy engagements within the UK.

Below: The Parliament of Georgia, built in 2012 to symbolise the promise of Georgia’s democratic future© Käyttäjä Spartaki/Commons
Strengthening parliamentary oversight of human rights policy in Georgia

Parliamentary protection of the rule of law and human rights has been strengthened in Georgia thanks to research facilitated by an AHRC-funded network, bringing together academics, policymakers and civil society partners. This change in policy marks the Parliament of Georgia’s first engagement with international human rights mechanisms, a major step for the country.

The research collaboration between the University of Oxford’s AHRC-funded Parliaments, the Rule of Law and Human Rights Project and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy focused on improving parliamentary capacity to oversee governments’ responsibility in meeting its human rights obligations in six emerging democracies – Georgia, Macedonia, Serbia, Uganda, Ukraine and Tunisia. Working with civil society partners, the researchers assessed the effectiveness of each country in reviewing legislation relating to human rights and the rule of law. This work culminated in a series of reports and recommendations tailored to each country’s need, which could be used as a basis for reform discussions.

The project’s policy impact in Georgia was facilitated by the close working relationship developed with civil society experts during the research. Working with local civil society expert Elene Sichinava was key to building this collaboration. These wide-ranging examples of activities and influence in 2015-2016 included the cross-disciplinary project The Antislavery Usable Past, led by Professor Kevin Bales at the University of Hull, informing the Florida State Anti-Trafficking Task Force in the USA on issues relating to modern-day slavery. In Northern Ireland, new members of the Police Service are often tasked with responding to and policing volatile commemorative events with little knowledge of the event that is being commemorated or the sensitivities or emotion surrounding it. AHRC project Connecting commemorative communities: Transforming memory-work after conflict in Northern Ireland led by Dr Sara McDowell at the University of Ulster, supported the creation of toolkits for the Police Service of Northern Ireland Recruits. The toolkits which are now used by the Police Service of Northern Ireland include a series of digital stories about contentious commemorative events which are shown to recruits who are tasked with policing and managing these events. Such engagement is increasingly being performed across the research career trajectory. AHRC doctoral student at Queen Mary University of London, Abigael Candelas, gave evidence to, and was cited by, the Scottish Government’s Justice Committee on the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Bill (1095873). The report and written evidence are part of a process of legislative reform to address domestic abuse and non-consensual disclosure of intimate media. In China, the UK-China Design Policy Network design research project, led by Dr Qian Sun at the Royal College of Art, has been supporting the Jiaxing Government to develop a policy framework which considers design innovation as a key enabler to underpin its SmartCity development. The project is working with both public logistics and creative practitioners to address issues relating to capacity.

The project was led by Murray Hunt (Visiting Professor at the University of Oxford and Legal Adviser to the Joint Committee on Human Rights of the UK Parliament) and so far two phases of the research have been completed – the first took place in 2012 and the second in 2015. The third phase began in May 2016.

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35 Working with local civil society expert Elene Sichinava was key to building this collaboration.
International collaboration informing media policy in Wales

An AHRC-funded network bringing together academic experts and industry partners working in television production in small nations has informed policy to help further develop and support Welsh broadcasting. The television industry performs a range of important functions in small nations which includes creating and preserving cultural identities and contributing to civil society. However, it also faces distinctive challenges, such as higher production costs, fewer capital resources and a smaller market for advertising. AHRC funding has brought together an international team of researchers with industry partners to develop strategies to tackle these challenges.

Lead researcher, Dr Ruth McElroy, used the project findings to provide evidence to Westminster’s Welsh Affairs Committee Inquiry into Welsh Broadcasting and the National Assembly of Wales’ Inquiry into BBC Charter Renewal in 2015-16. She offered insights into the need to safeguard the sustainability of TV production in Wales for Welsh viewers at a time when cuts are likely, and the role of public service broadcasters in helping to deliver this sustainability. Dr McElroy’s evidence fed into the final reports for both inquiries. The research outputs were enriched thanks to the interdisciplinary and international dynamic of the team: the academic experts, from backgrounds ranging from broadcasting policy to minority-language media, came from the UK and Denmark, and the advisory board had representation from the European Broadcasting Union.

Commenting on the value of the international research partnership, Dr McElroy states: “Because the landscape of television production is becoming increasingly globalised, we always felt it necessary to create a genuinely international research network. For one thing, there’s nothing like having an international team on a project to make you question your own national assumptions! […] Our partnership meant we could each use our existing links with both HE and industry to draw together experts from a dozen different European countries.”

“This network helps to target exchanges across national and disciplinary borders and to better understand how TV in small nations can build economic capacity whilst also maintaining its cultural and linguistic commitments to the core audience.”

Siwan Hywel, Partnerships Office, S4C

Dr Ruth McElroy (University of South Wales) was lead researcher on the Television from small nations: building a network for cultural and commercial success project (2015-16), and Dr Anne Marit Waade (Aarhus University, Denmark) was an international co-investigator. The project’s final report can be accessed here: https://smallnationstv.org/.

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37 The industry partners included TG4 (the Irish language television channel), Royal Television Society Wales, S4C (the Welsh language channel) and the European Broadcasting Union.
A global outlook and a global reach

The UK’s world-leading arts and humanities research community have research interests which span all the corners of the globe, stimulated and enhanced through close interactions with scholars, communities and organisations in those countries and regions. Through funding initiatives such as HERA (Humanities in the European Research Area), the European Joint Programming Initiatives, the UK’s Newton Fund, the Digging for Data Challenge, the International Placement Scheme and other bilateral programmes, the AHRC supports different opportunities for researchers to sustain and create new partnerships. The Digging for Data Challenge highlights the opportunities, strengths and demand for such international partnerships. What began in 2009 as a partnership of three countries the UK, the USA, and Canada, has grown to a partnership of research funders from 11 countries and 18 funders. International collaboration for UK arts and humanities researchers is also enabled by the AHRC’s International Co-Investigator policy which allows applicants to ensure meaningful partnerships with international scholars by their formal inclusion within the project team. The Informing media policy and supporting television production in small nations case study above is an example of the successful use of this funding mechanism.

The arts and humanities addressing global challenges

The role of arts and humanities research within an international development context is increasingly recognised. Analysis of AHRC’s funding portfolio in 2015 identified 136 research projects of relevance to international development. Clusters of particular strength included issues relating to: transitions from conflict; humanitarian and development aid; the role and contexts of civil society, NGOs and international/multilateral organisations; heritage, including ‘at risk’ heritages, the tourism economy and cultural preservation; languages, including endangered and vulnerable languages; the opportunities from creative production (including crafts), the creative economy, design and cultural exchange; community participation in development contexts, including ‘marginalised’ communities; human rights, social justice & gender equality; education; and, urban development. At the forefront was a recognition of the importance of the full spectrum of arts and humanities disciplines in offering a people-centred “whole-of-society approach” to meeting the call of the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.38

The success of these earlier projects was often due to strong partnerships with public and third sector organisations based in the country of interest. For example, the Reanimating Cultural Heritage project led by Professor Paul Basu at University College London had explored how the cultural sphere could contribute to Sierra Leone’s post-conflict recovery. The project brought together dispersed collections of cultural objects, images and sound recordings in an innovative Sierra Leone Heritage digital resource, a new national heritage asset for Sierra Leone. The project team provided a sustained programme of training and capacity-building in curatorial, archival and digitised collections management at the Sierra Leone National Museum (SLNM) for staff members from SLNM, the Monuments and Relics Commission, and Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs. The research and the project team were called on to advise the Monuments and Relics Commission on locally-appropriate forms of cultural heritage management.

38 https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/
Multidisciplinary arts and humanities approaches can be transformative in shaping international policy. For example, the *Translating cultures and the legislated mediation of indigenous rights in Peru* project, led by Professor Rosaleen Howard at Newcastle University, supported greater awareness of legislation and legal protection amongst indigenous communities in Peru. The project explores issues of cross-cultural communication in legal negotiations which occur between the Peruvian state and indigenous communities, working with the Department of Indigenous Languages, the Department of Rights of Indigenous Peoples and civil society organisations. The project team’s participation in the 8th Training Course in Translating and Interpreting in Indigenous Languages (August-Sept 2015) led to the provision of a written report advising the Indigenous Languages Division team of the Ministry of Culture team. This included recommendations for future changes to the training course content, its mode of delivery and to contributions to Peru’s draft Protocol for Indigenous Translators and Interpreters in Public Services.

The AHRC’s involvement in the UK’s Newton Fund and the Global Challenges Research Fund allows us to continue to support our research communities’ interests and involvement in this area. Building on previous Newton Fund activity (see case study on *Building capacity for collaboration in China* below) in China, Egypt, India and Brazil, in October 2015 the ‘Living Research: Making in China’ programme was launched. The programme, developed jointly by the AHRC and the British Council, brings together experts in China and the UK to work collaboratively to gain a better understanding of creativity, manufacturing and innovation through makerspaces and maker cultures in both countries. As part of the launch, a group of UK-based researchers and practitioners were immersed into a variety of makerspaces in China, resulting in new collaborations between creative industry experts in both countries exploring the maker culture in China as a rising area of economic growth. The initial phase led to the commissioning of the ‘Hello Shenzhen’ programme by the British Council. Built on partnerships developed in the initial phase with the Shenzhen Foundation for International Exchange and Cooperation and the Shenzhen Open Innovation Lab, the programme will continue to develop links between UK and Chinese creative industry experts.

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The Global Challenges Research Fund offers new opportunities for arts and humanities researchers to enhance their contributions to international development challenges. In 2016, AHRC made 70 GCRF awards through AHRC and AHRC-led schemes and calls. A further 37 awards were made via GCRF calls led by other Research Councils on topics such as Forced Displacement (led by ESRC) and Building Resilience (led by the Natural Environment Research Council). An initial analysis of the 70 GCRF awards supported by AHRC and AHRC-led schemes and calls reveals that it involves projects relating to 48 Lower and Middle Income Countries (LMIC), across 18 arts and humanities disciplines, and over 50 HEIs and Independent Research Organisations. Approximately, 95% of the those awards are multidisciplinary, of which a quarter also involve STEM disciplines.
Strengthening UK-China partnerships to support technologies for the creative industries

Projects funded by the AHRC through the Newton Fund have created new partnerships between UK and Chinese academics and practitioners working in the creative and technical industries.

The Centre for Digital Copyright and IP Research in China brings UK and Chinese experts together to investigate global copyright challenges and the potential for creative and technical industries in the fast developing Chinese context. These have offered new opportunities for UK researchers and built greater capacity for collaboration in the UK and China. The centre, based at the University of Nottingham Ningbo in China, has developed a partnership with the IP office of the Ningbo Science and Technology Bureau (NSTB), who have committed £200K of additional funding to support the work of the centre. In 2015 the centre funded six projects that have enabled new collaborations between academic experts from both countries as well as businesses, regulatory bodies and non-academic organisations in China.

For example, the project ‘A Technological Licensing Framework for 3D Printed Content’, has brought together researchers from UK universities, the Chinese University of Political Science and the University of Nottingham Ningbo with 3D printing companies in China to look at the role of IP in the development of the 3D printing industry. This collaboration has already led to an agreement between the University of Nottingham Ningbo and the China (world) 3D Printing Technology Industry Alliance to boost talent and innovation in the Chinese 3D printing industry through the introduction of training courses in 3D printing for students; an agreement with crucial capacity building impact in this emerging sector.

Across the six projects, the new partnerships have enabled teams to study and compare copyright models and law in the UK and China, identifying where they might learn from one another in the fast moving digital sector of the creative industries. By bringing together experts from the UK and China with national government digital copyright licensing agencies in China, the networking activities of the ‘China Digital Copyright Exchange’ project have led to a commitment to the adoption of international data standards by the Chinese governmental agencies present. This commitment will simplify the protection and trade of digital copyright within China. The use of common international standards will also support the development of the Chinese creative industries and open up new trade channels for UK creators into China.
AHRC invests in highly-skilled researchers from our provision for doctoral studentships, collaborative and training opportunities through to our facilitation of research leadership for early career and senior scholars.

Support for postgraduates

The development of highly-skilled postgraduates fuels innovation and growth across the economy. Three quarters of employers surveyed for the RCUK 2014 Impact of Doctoral Careers study noted that alongside specialist subject knowledge, doctoral graduates were particularly valued for their research and analytical skills, as well as their capacity for critical thinking. They also noted the ‘spillover’ effect on other employees with doctoral graduates exploring new perspectives and questions, encouraging and inspiring improved problem solving approaches, noting particularly that 86% of the employer respondents highlighted the importance of Arts and Humanities doctoral graduates to help others think creatively.39 The study noted that the arts and humanities doctoral graduate respondents were working within diverse sectors such as: education, research and development, manufacturing and engineering, finance, business, IT and legal, public administration, and, health and social work.

The AHRC’s 2016 Career Tracking Survey,40 the third of its kind, has highlighted the contributions made to the knowledge economy and beyond by those who have benefitted from AHRC doctoral funding. Of the 90% of respondents in employment,41 74% were

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39 As reported in researchfish® including data up to the 2015/16. The study surveyed 1,830 doctoral graduates and interviewed 268 doctoral graduates and 96 employers of doctoral graduates CFE Research, The Impact of Doctoral Careers (2014); with a focus on arts and humanities respondents: Arts and Humanities Doctoral Graduates Factsheet (2014).

40 (forthcoming report by Britain Thinks); alumni from AHRC-funded doctoral programmes, who had completed their PhD between 2009 and 2011, were invited to participate. The response rate was approximately 20% (233 respondents of the 1,116 PhD alumni invited to respond).

41 Of the other respondents, 2% were in full time education, 4% themselves as “Other” and 4% as “Unemployed”.

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Career opportunities shaped by subject expertise and transferable skills

Dr Rebecca Conway completed an AHRC-funded PhD in British History at the University of Manchester in 2011. Using the skills developed during her doctorate as well as her AHRC-funded masters, Rebecca is now enjoying a successful non-academic career in international education at Cambridge International Education, one of the world’s largest providers of international education programmes and qualifications for 5 to 19 year olds. They offer examinations and qualifications to nearly a million learners from 10,000 schools in 160 countries each year and work as an education partner for governments in over 30 countries. Rebecca initially used the skills she developed during her studies to gain short-term contracts within academia, taking on teaching roles whilst also gaining crucial further expertise as a researcher. This experience of teaching helped secure her a first non-academic role. Within her current role Rebecca is the subject specialist for History, a position which utilises the subject expertise gained whilst studying for her doctorate. She also develops and manages assessment materials in her area of expertise and this task is underpinned by knowledge of theory and best practice developed on-the-job and through further academic study.

Many of the skills developed during her doctorate have been important in her career development and her transition from a role within academia to a role with an awarding body in the education sector. Working within international education Rebecca has needed to utilise the public speaking and communication skills honed whilst achieving her doctorate, most prominently whilst delivering training and collaborating with colleagues and clients in countries such as Kazakhstan, Malaysia and Egypt. Rebecca’s role requires her to simultaneously manage a large number of different tasks and work within tight time frames, a requirement which relies upon strong project management skills developed during her PhD. Critical thinking and problem solving skills which were shaped and advanced by her doctoral studies, and the accompanying writing and editing skills, have all been important in different aspects of her work, for example, when producing assessment materials, developing solutions to clients’ training needs and completing reports for high-level internal and external audiences.

“The transferrable skills that I developed during my PhD as well as the teaching experience and subject knowledge I have acquired have been vital in developing my career in education management.”

Dr Rebecca Conway

working within the higher education sector and 26% were employed in fields such as education, the creative industries (including creative arts, design, marketing, advertising and media), the charitable sector, finance, business management, and, public administration.

Respondents were asked about the range of academic and wider activities which they felt had been influenced by their doctoral experience. Significantly, 80% of respondents felt that their doctoral experience had contributed to one or more of the non-academic engagement activities listed in the survey. This included over a third of respondents who linked that experience to releasing or launching a creative output into the public domain or significantly shaping a creative output. In addition, 13% of respondents had contributed to informing public policy and/or policy makers, 3% who had launched a start-up company or microbusiness, 30% had contributed to the development and activities of a public sector organisation with 21% contributing to the development and activities of a social enterprise.

AHRC-funded doctoral graduates make valuable contributions to the knowledge economy. As a result of their doctoral experience, 90% of all respondents had contributed to one or more academic activities. This included over 78% having published peer-reviewed research, 44% who had received external research funding or a visiting fellowship, and over a quarter (27%) who had created or significantly contributed to a new degree programme or new institute.

The AHRC is committed to funding the best students working in vibrant research, training and development environments. It supports research students through its eleven Doctoral Training Partnerships, the seven Centres for Doctoral Training, its Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships, and, the Collaborative Doctoral Awards scheme. In 2015-16, the AHRC funded 796 new doctoral students. Approximately 91% of AHRC’s new doctoral students are based at the DTPs and CDTs which collectively involve 75 HEIs and over 150 non-academic partners.
Delivering career-enhancing partnership experiences to PhD students

The AHRC Northern Bridge Doctoral Training Partnership has facilitated partnerships with a wide range of external organisations, providing students with a unique experience to enhance their own projects and to develop their research skills in a real world environment.

The partnerships fostered by the consortium have provided opportunities for students which enhance their career development, whether within or outside of academia. They have strengthened connections between HEIs and non-academic organisations, reinforcing the bridge between universities and other sectors and ensuring that both parties reap the benefits of each other’s expertise.

Rachel Hanna, whose PhD focuses on the narratives of refugees and asylum seekers at Queen’s University of Belfast, has carried out three placements since starting her doctorate in 2014. The first, in autumn 2015, was at ArtsEkta on their heritage project Sanskriti, which explored the shared past of Northern Irish and South Asian communities. Through carrying out interviews and cataloguing for the project, Rachel was able to develop her own research skills and provide ArtsEkta with her distinctive research expertise. She was also involved in facilitating textile workshops, where participants made pieces depicting the story of Rama and Sita, one of the greatest epics of Indian history. These pieces became part of a travelling exhibition which showcased the work of Sanskriti, and Rachel’s involvement in preparing the event and engaging with visitors provided her with new skills relating to exhibition development and curation. Following her contribution to the exhibition, the organisers asked Rachel to work on the content for a further project exhibition, helping her to hone her writing skills and gain experience of writing for non-academic audiences.

Following on from this, Rachel carried out a short placement in early 2016 with Research and Information Services at the Northern Ireland Assembly; an opportunity which emerged as a result of her participation in the AHRC’s Public Policy Engagement Skills initiative. During this placement Rachel was responsible for writing a briefing note on disabled access policy in Ireland, a challenge which provided her with first-hand experience of writing in a demanding public policy context. In spring 2016 Rachel built further on this experience in a policy environment in a placement at the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL), where she assisted in producing an Inclusion Strategy for the South Belfast Partnership Board. The placement provided opportunities to discuss issues of social inclusion with key stakeholders and to develop a network of new project participants, which enriched her own research project. It also triggered Rachel’s thinking about the potential policy implications of her work, and provided her with knowledge of ways in which she could build on this potential. As well as providing Rachel with experience of using her research skills in a variety of professional contexts, these placements have ensured that she is equipped with a set of transferable skills which would be of benefit on a range of different career paths.

ArtsEkta is the leading ethnic arts organisation in Northern Ireland, promoting intercultural exchange, integration and inclusion throughout Ireland.

DCAL became part of the Department for Communities in the restructuring of the Stormont Departments in June 2016.
**Collaborative Doctoral Support**

In 2015–2016, 29 new doctoral students began Collaborative Doctoral Awards (CDA). CDAs involve joint supervision between a university and a non-academic partner for the duration of the award. These offer the students opportunities to gain vital skills in undertaking collaborative research and also serve to enhance existing partnerships and building new links for the universities involved. The 2015–2016 CDA student intake involves 15 HEIs in England, Wales and Scotland in partnership with a diverse range of organisations which include Alzheimer Scotland, the BBC, Chatsworth House Trust, Cwmuned City Council, the National Women’s Council of Ireland, Phillips Electronics, Publishing Scotland, The Bank of England and the Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums.

The AHRC’s Collaborative Doctoral Partnership scheme allows 12 non-HEI organisations or groups of organisations (which include a number of the AHRC’s Independent Research Organisations) with a strong track record to offer further collaborative opportunities with the UK’s HEIs. The 2015–2016 CDP intake of 45 new doctoral students are based at 17 of the UK’s prestigious cultural and creative organisations and tourist attractions such as the British Library, The Science Museums Group, the National Galleries of Scotland, Historic England, The Victoria and Albert Museum, The Tate Group, the British Museum, The Imperial War Museum, the National Maritime Museum and others, strengthening vital research links with 25 HEIs across the UK.

**Boosting training and development among postgraduates and early career researchers**

The AHRC’s support of training and development amongst postgraduates and early career researcher includes opportunities for international networking and placements, undertaking knowledge exchange partnerships with creative and cultural partners, and, greater understanding of engaging in public policy, public engagement and collaborative opportunity.

**Policy engagement skills**

In collaboration with other Research Councils, the AHRC also offers postgraduate policy internships with seven host partner organisations which include the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST), the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) in Edinburgh, the Research Service of the National Assembly for Wales and The Government Office for Science (GO Science). The AHRC has seen increased demand for the annual AHRC/Institute for Government Engaging with Government programme established in 2013. The three-day training programme involves discussions with a range of senior civil servants, researchers, politicians and media professionals. Feedback from alumni of the 2015 course has revealed how one early career researcher who has been collecting data on child language brokers (children who interpret for family and peers) has used the training to forge links with a local council to further support that research. Another noted how the course had helped the alumnus build new links with Scotland’s minister for Local Government and Scotland’s civil service lead on Community Empowerment. In the interests of widening these experiences to a broader group of researchers, the AHRC launched a pilot Public Policy Engagement Skills initiative in 2015–16.

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**Equipping new generations of researchers with the skillset to support research-informed policy**

Artists and humanities research informs policy and policy makers in diverse ways. Building strong and sustained networks is key to ensuring that new policy is informed by excellent research. AHRC is leading the way in equipping a new generation of researchers with the skills needed to engage with policy makers.

Recognising the increasing value of this form of engagement (see chapter on public policy impact above), in 2015, the AHRC launched a pilot Public Policy Engagement Skills initiative offering 10 awards to AHRC doctoral training consortia to develop and pilot training courses on public policy engagement for arts and humanities doctoral students and early career researchers. The AHRC’s Doctoral Training Partnerships and Centres for Doctoral Training were already partnered with 15 government and local government organisations in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. This initiative has helped in broadening that network further and enabled the creation of bespoke training programmes and opportunities and developed closer relationships with public sector organisations. In total, the different consortia worked with over 40 organisations, ranging from Save the Children to the Institute for Government to deliver this training, funded between April 2015 and January 2016. The initiative has enabled the students to learn from former MPs and senior civil servants, current House of Lords Peers, parliamentary clerks, researchers and practitioners experienced in engaging with policy makers. New resources have been created on skills development relating to policy impact skills for others to use.

The AHRC’s doctoral training consortia made use of this funding in different ways. For example, the Northern Bridge DTP arranged for their students to undertake placements in with local authorities or government departments/parliamentary offices (DCAL, Northern Ireland and the Research and Information Service, Northern Ireland Assembly). The funding inspired the Cambridge Doctoral Training Partnership to collaborate with organisations including the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Centre for Science and Policy to develop a new three-month internship programme due to begin in January 2017. There are also plans for an internship programme with RAND Europe, a global policy think tank, which would allow students to practice their policy engagement skills alongside their research expertise by working on discreet pieces of research-based policy work.

The reach of the pilot programme was evident through the responses to AHRC’s annual Doctoral Student Survey: in 2015, 9% of respondents noted that they had developed or improved skills in engaging with policy makers, this had increased to 16% of respondents within the 2016 survey returns.
Building capacity for cultural and creative engagement

As part of the AHRC’s 10th Anniversary programme, AHRC offered its Cultural Engagement Fund in 2015-16. Funding was provided for a three-month engagement project by a recently-graduated researcher in the arts and humanities. The aim is to strengthen engagement and knowledge exchange between a university’s arts and humanities research base and its wider cultural and civil milieu. The scheme also widens the broader skills development of high-calibre recent arts and humanities doctoral graduates by offering opportunities to work with non-academic partners. The scheme supported 94 early career researcher-led collaborative projects at 36 universities in partnership with over 115 organisations. This included 40 third sector organisations, 55 public sector organisations and 20 businesses and creative and cultural freelancers. While the impact on skills development, the ability to present research to diverse audiences and sectors, and, employability were significant, the scheme had additional benefits. Of the partnerships developed, 44% were new to the universities and 87% of award holders reported that the partnership was likely to continue beyond the life of the project. Of these, in most cases (59%), the Fellow was to be involved in the continuing partnership, sometimes also to develop the project, or begin a new strand of work (57%). Some of the unexpected benefits included the establishment of a new research centre with input from an external partner organisation, the creation of the role of Public Engagement Officer for one university, and, the establishment of the roles of Philosopher-in-Residence and Academic-in-Residence at the Bluecoat arts centre in Liverpool.

Stimulating new and impactful cultural and creative partnerships

The ninety-four 2015 Cultural Engagement Fellows (CEF), across the UK, each explored a specific knowledge exchange activity sharing their knowledge, skills and expertise and learning new skills from other sectors to support a mutually beneficial partnership. The following three examples highlight the success of this scheme in relation to education, health and wellbeing policies and the heritage economy.

Creating new educational resources for primary schools

In Durham, the Living Poets in the Classroom project developed a new approach to classical poetry, based on how listeners and readers imagine the ancient poets. The CEF, Dr Francesca Richards, supervised by Professor Barbara Graziosi, collaborated with County Durham theatre company Changeling Productions to develop a touring performance. The production retold parts of the Odyssey and invited pupils to consider how the poet Homer might have been heard by using stories taken from ancient biographical sources, with humorous references to the Durham area. It was performed by two professional actors for 325 Key Stage 2 pupils and

Working alongside the UK’s leading researchers, major cultural institutions benefit from the research advances of the arts and humanities.

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44 The information on the partner organisations is based on the 78 final reports submitted by the Cultural Engagement Fund Fellows to date.
Each year the AHRC funds over fifty international placement fellowships, offering a unique experience for early career researchers.

Shaping health and wellbeing policies
At King’s College London, the Arts, Health and Wellbeing Inquiry project saw CEF, Dr Rebecca Gordon-Nesbitt, supervised by Ruth Hogarth, working with the All Party Parliamentary Group on Arts, Health and Wellbeing (APPGAHW) to scope an inquiry to inform a vision for political leadership in the field of arts, health and wellbeing. In February 2016, a submission, co-authored by the CEF, was made by APPG AHW to the consultation connected to the Culture White Paper. The report highlighted the relationship between the arts, health and wellbeing and informed three case studies in a companion online resource. As a result, this became the first policy document submitted to Parliament by a Secretary of State which explicitly acknowledges that a beneficial relationship exists between the arts, health and wellbeing. The White Paper also noted the intention, ‘to respond to the recommendations of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Arts and Health when it reports on arts and health policy next year.’ The CEF was invited to continue working with APPG AHW, supported by the Wellcome Trust and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation for a further year to develop policy recommendations, generating a written report, to be launched in Parliament in spring 2017.

Using digital technologies to unlock Sheffield’s past
The Sheffield Lives: the Birth of a City project at the University of Sheffield was supervised by Professor John Moreland and involved a partnership for the CEF, Dr Rachel Askew, with Llama Digital, a Sheffield based web and mobile app company who specialise in the use of digital technology to provide tours. Together, they developed Sheffield Lives, a free walking app that takes users on a chronological journey through Sheffield’s historic core. Starting at the castle in 1570, with the arrival of Mary, Queen of Scots, users are guided through the town to historic locations such as the cathedral, Cutlers’ Hall and Kelham Island, before returning to the castle to learn about its demolition in 1649. At each of the tour’s twelve stops, individuals who played a role in the city’s development are brought to life through the use of audio clips, voiced by professional actors that provide an insight into the lives of Sheffield’s 16th and 17th-century residents. The app provides local people and visitors with a chance to engage with the city’s past and learn about a historic landscape that has largely been lost to subsequent development. The CEF will continue liaising with Llama Digital to identify further projects and opportunities for collaboration. Additional funding has already facilitated the production of an additional app based on a previous project surrounding the Port of Sheffield.

New international networks and opportunities
Each year the AHRC funds over fifty international placement fellowships, offering a unique experience for early career researchers and providing them with skills, contacts and opportunities that help further their career progression. AHRC’s International Placement Scheme enables early career researchers, doctoral-level research assistants and doctoral students to take up placements at seven world-leading international research institutions to work with renowned research collections, programmes and scholars in China, Japan and the USA.
Fostering career- and research-enhancing international networks for early career researchers

Newcastle University Doctoral Student in Creative Writing, Bonny Brooks was awarded an International Placement Fellowship at the John W. Kluge Centre at the Library of Congress in Washington DC. The fellowship enabled her to access the world’s largest collection of English-language material on North Korea. These resources, together with the strong networks developed during her Fellowship, have enhanced her research on North Korea and its ‘everyday citizens’. They have provided invaluable opportunities for her practice-based research on how trauma and political activism are understood in different cultures and the novel she is developing on dissidence and North Korea.

A key benefit of Brooks’ time at the Library of Congress was the chance to develop and use new skills. The experience of working alongside scholars from a broad range of disciplines enabled her to view research problems from different perspectives, and enhanced her communication skills to share her work with different audiences. Thanks to her placement, Brooks was invited to contribute to a new anthology entitled War, Oppression and Disaster Across Time and Place: Creative responses to traumatic experience. Contact with eminent researchers with considerable experience of North Korea such as Jean Lee, the first Western journalist ever to be stationed in Pyongyang and the US Congressional Research Service’s East Asia specialist, also helped her to sharpen the focus of her research. Since completing her Fellowship, Bonny Brooks has had two articles published in the WorldPost, an online publication from Huffington Post with over 28 million monthly views. The articles each achieved a readership of over 20,000. The first, focused on North Korea, was subsequently translated into Japanese for The Huffington Post Japan.

Building a platform for public engagement

Working alongside the UK’s leading researchers, national and regional cultural institutions benefit from the research advances of the arts and humanities. Across a range of initiatives - such as our sponsorship of the annual Being Human Festival, the World War One Engagement Centres through to our strategic collaboration with the BBC - we provide opportunities for public engagement with research. Each year, the AHRC/BBC Radio 3 New Generation Thinkers programme offers 60 early career researchers training and the chance to showcase their research to broadcasters; the final ten are chosen as New Generation Thinkers to develop programmes with the BBC over the course of that year. At the launch of the 2016 New Generations Thinkers, at the Hay Festival, Matthew Dodd, Head of Speech programming at BBC Radio 3, commented:

“By working with the Arts and Humanities Research Council we can connect our listeners to the freshest academic thinking from across the UK. In turn, we develop broadcasters of the future - part of our role as a cultural patron. We think it’s vitally important that the latest research and ideas from universities can be communicated to the wider public because, at their best, these ideas help to shape our understanding of the world around us. I’m delighted we’re able to provide that platform and support.”
Building a strong research portfolio and an impactful academic career

The AHRC’s Early Career Fellowships support vital contributions to the knowledge economy and builds new partnerships for the higher education sector to offer wider societal and economic benefits.

Since her first research funding award as a Principal investigator in 2012, Dr Natalya Vince, Reader in North African and French Studies at the University of Portsmouth, has continued to build an active research portfolio. Her 2012 AHRC Translating Cultures Early Career Fellowship, *Rewriting the veteran: gender, geography, generation and the Algerian War* significantly contributed to the completion of her monograph, *Our fighting sisters: nation, memory and gender in Algeria, 1954-2012*. Published in 2015, the monograph was the winner of the Women’s History Network Annual Book Prize in 2016. Vince notes, “The knowledge and institutional links developed in the course of the research which I carried out with staff and students at the Ecole normale supérieure (teacher training college) in Algiers about the transmission of memory and attitudes towards history enabled me to develop a very good working relationship with the British Council in Algiers.”

In 2013, when greater efforts were being made to forge closer links between the UK and Algeria, the Algerian Ministry for Higher Education and the British Council began working on a scheme to bring 100 fully-funded (fees and bursary) Algerian PhD students each year for five years to study in the UK, fully funded by the Algerian Ministry of Education. Vince led the application process which enabled the University of Portsmouth to be one of 15 universities selected from across the UK to participate in workshops and visits to discuss and advise on the mechanics of this doctoral scheme; she remains closely involved with the scheme which was launched in 2014-15.

These links with the British Council have led to further collaboration which includes an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award in partnership with the British Council (2014-2017) which focuses on the social worlds associated with the study of English in Algeria. This project aims to provide policy makers, such as the British Council, with a greater understanding of Algerian culture and behaviour helping to encourage UK-Algerian cooperation and partnership, as well as a better understanding of Algerian attitudes towards French and English. This has helped the British Council improve its English courses for Algerian students. In tandem, Vince’s endeavours within these previous initiatives have contributed to her recent European Commission Horizon2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Fellowship project on, *Students, social change and the construction of the post-independence Algerian state, 1962-1976* (2016-2019).

Sustained support: research careers

The AHRC is committed to supporting researchers through all phases of their careers. This is achieved through a portfolio of funding which supports large-scale and exploratory projects, fellowships and networking opportunities, and targeted funding for early career researchers. In 2015-16 over 1,200 researchers were supported as Principal Investigators and Co-investigators at 98 research organisations and Independent Research Organisations. These award holders develop new research questions and paradigms, explore innovative pathways to impact and receive recognition not only from their academic peers but more widely across the sectors with which they interact.
Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education 2015: Slavery and emancipation

Two project investigators, Professor Kevin Bale (PI) and Professor John Oldfield (Co-investigator) from the £1.5m Care for the Future Large Grant Antislavery Usable Past and the Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation (WISE), won the prestigious 2015 Queen’s Anniversary Prize for their research into slavery. The award recognised the world-leading work of the Institute for its transformational studies of slavery and emancipation issues, both historical and contemporary, and for helping to reveal the extent of the incidence of modern day slavery. For example, research by the Antislavery Usable Past’s investigators was used in the UK Draft Modern Slavery Bill, April 2015 where they were cited on three occasions by the Joint Committee in their Report on the Draft Modern Slavery Bill, including the use of the definition of slavery model which was developed from the 2012 Bellagio-Harvard Guidelines (also AHRC funded). The Freedom Fund, a private donor fund dedicated to ending modern slavery, used Bales’ research into slavery and conflict to brief the UN Security Council during its first ever debate on human trafficking and modern slavery in December 2015. The debate focused on the connection with armed conflict. The Freedom Fund called for the meeting of the Security Council to label widespread and systematic human trafficking by armed groups as a crime against humanity and to appoint a Special Envoy to better organise and focus UN efforts.

Halsbury Legal Award 2015 for Innovation: Big Data for Law

The National Archives was awarded the prestigious Halsbury Legal Award 2015 for Innovation in recognition of, its revolutionary approach to managing and organising legislation. The innovation award celebrates the fresh thinking and technical innovation of the AHRC-funded Big Data for Law (2014-15) project in supporting legislation. Led by John Sheridan at the National Archives, the project has also helped new generations of researchers understand how the statute book works as a system. The Big Data for Law project provided new Legislation Data Research Infrastructure at research.legislation.gov.uk which was tailored to researchers’ needs, supported downloadable data and online tools and, open source tools for researchers to download, adapt and use. The project team explored if there was a concept of a pattern language for legislation, i.e. are there commonly occurring legal design solutions, in legislation, to commonly occurring policy problems. This concept of a pattern language has been taken forward by Parliamentary and legislative counsel from the four UK drafting offices. They have set up a group to develop the patterns and are keen to use them to encapsulate knowledge about good legal design, as well as to aid policy officials to give better instructions.

Top 25 Outstanding Academic Titles 2015: Internet Literature in China

Choice Magazine is the premier review journal for English-language books and digital resources for academic libraries. Among the approximately 7,000 titles reviewed by Choice each year, about 10% are chosen to make up a long list of Outstanding Academic Titles for a particular year. From that list, a Top 25 is chosen each year to represent the absolute best academic books from that year. Featured in December 2015 was a monograph Internet Literature in China published in 2015 by Professor Michael Hockx, Professor of Chinese Literature at SOAS, which was developed from his AHRC Fellowship, Internet Literature in China (2011).
Kelvin Medal 2015: Citizen Science

The Kelvin Medal and Prize, awarded by the Institute of Physics and named after Lord Kelvin, was established in 1994 and is awarded each year to acknowledge individuals who demonstrate outstanding contributions to the public understanding of the sciences. The award was made to Professor Chris Lintott, Professor of Astrophysics and co-investigator on the AHRC Science in Culture Large Grant Constructing Scientific Communities: Citizen Science in the 19th and 21st Centuries (2013-2017), a project led by Professor Sally Shuttleworth, Professor of English Literature at the University of Oxford. The award was made for Lintott’s major contributions to public engagement with science through citizen science projects using Zooniverse (of which Lintott is PI). This includes a number of the projects developed by the AHRC Large Grant such as “Orchid Observers” and “Science Gossip”. Multidisciplinary collaboration with the arts and humanities is not new to Lintott; in 2010-11, his collaboration with Professor Dirk Obbink, Professor of Papyrology and Greek Literature saw development of an online public user interface to support the transcription of ancient texts written on papyrus and other artefacts through crowd-sourcing. By March 2016, the platform had recorded over 1.5 million transcriptions by 915,621 users.

Best Book in Hindu-Christian Studies: Hindu Senses of Self

In March 2016, the international Society for Hindu-Christian Studies announced Professor Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad of the University of Lancaster as the author of the Best Book in Hindu-Christian Studies between 2011 and 2015. The book, entitled, Divine Self, Human Self: The Philosophy of Being in Two Gita Commentaries, focuses on the 2000-year-old Bhagavad-Gita (The Divine Song), a central text in Hindu traditions. It was developed from the AHRC research grant, Hindu Senses of Self: Critiques of Buddhist Reductionism (2008-2011). The research was was also used to help the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, engage with Hindu religious leaders during his visit to India in September 2011. The PI, Ram-Prasad, chaired a private roundtable conclave between five Hindu religious leaders and the Archbishop, as well as a public forum. In addition, Ram-Prasad and the Archbishop assessed the future of Hindu-Christian dialogue in the UK, at a forum at Lambeth Palace in February 2012.

RIBA President’s Award for Outstanding University-Located Research 2015: Urban Transformations

The international Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) awards recognise ‘talent, promote innovation, and encourage excellence in the study of architecture worldwide’. The award was based on the body of design research by Professor Andre Viljoen and Dr Katrin Bohn, both at the University of Brighton, collated and presented in their book, Second Nature Urban Agriculture: Designing productive cities (2014) which was developed from the AHRC Urban Transformations Network: Pathways from Practice to Policy research network (2014-2016). In making the application for this award the applicants referred to the AHRC research network for which Viljoen is Principal Investigator and Bohn is a member, as an example of how they have extended their research context to explore policy aspects of an expanding research domain. David Gloster, RIBA Director of Education, who introduced the award winners in October 2015, commented on the prize being a recognition of Bohn and Viljoen’s early and original identification of the architectural and urban design consequences of a sustainable urban food system and also their foresight in identifying the significance of this topic and helping to shift it from an underrepresented topic to one that is now receiving extensive international attention.

Intranet Linguists of the Year Award 2016: Translating Dissent:

The Intranet Linguists of the Year Awards is aimed at recognising the struggle and sacrifices linguists both living and deceased who have been the focus for media attention in the preceding year, and have increased public awareness of the importance of linguists and languages as a result. Professor Mona Baker was awarded this recognition for Translating Dissent: Voices from and with the Egyptian Revolution, a volume of essays on the importance of translation in our time. Baker was able to examine the use of translation in the context of the Egyptian revolution thanks to her AHRC Leadership Fellowship, Translating the Egyptian Revolution: Activist Use of Translation to Connect with Global Publics and Protest Movements (2013-2015), and additional support provided by the Centre for Translation and Intercultural Studies at the University of Manchester.
Methodological Developments

AHRC-funded research contributes to advances in research methodologies within and across disciplines. This year’s Impact Report focuses on some of the advances made in methodological approaches to understanding the value and the nature of the impact: of the arts and humanities, including the creative industries; of art and humanities research; and, of research on arts and culture. The AHRC has supported a broad spectrum of projects which explore these questions. The AHRC’s flagship project, The Cultural Value Project which launched its final report in March 2016 examined a range of new approaches and techniques tested and explored by investigating particular sectors, societal groups and disciplines.

Design, both design research and the design sector, has been a particular area of focus. In addition to the AHRC/Design Council Bristol and Bath by Design project (see case study below), other projects have explored the ways in which community-led design is valued, captured and how design-led approaches are understood, particularly within the public and third sectors. As a result, one of the policy engagement activities within the Identifying and Mapping Design Impact and Value (2014-2015) project at Northumbria University and Dundee University explored how a design-led approach could be introduced to support the delivery of local government services in Dundee. Hazel White, the co-investigator on the project was commissioned to run a one-day Dundee UNESCO City of Design Leadership workshop for Dundee City Council. In addition, she embedded the research findings in a training module prepared for Dundee City Council’s 600 managers of services across social services, education, culture, environment and infrastructure. The Valuing Community-Led Design (2012-2013) project, led by Dr Katerina Alexiou of the Open University, identified different approaches used to capture value. The project supported the development of methods and tools for unearthing and sharing the benefits of community-led design. This included the development of a social network site called Community Design Exchange and the development of an asset mapping methodology which has continued to influence subsequent research projects, including the five-year £1.2m project, Empowering Design Practices: historic places of worship as catalysts for connecting communities (2014-2019).

Mapping and understanding the value of the design sector

An AHRC funded project is revealing the role and cultural and economic value of Design in the Bristol and Bath region by using innovative research methods. At a UK-wide level, the Design Council’s 2015 report noted that the design economy generated £71.7bn which is equivalent to 7.2% of the UK’s total GVA. The Bristol and Bath by Design research project has revealed that the richness and varied contribution of Design in the region is hidden and unacknowledged. Design-led companies based in the Bristol and Bath region have significantly higher turnover than the average design companies elsewhere in England and Wales. They are 14% more productive than the average small non-design company and 3% more productive than average small design-led companies across England and Wales. The Bristol and Bath area was chosen for the study because each city had particularly specialist sectors for which design is integral. This included, for example, aerospace and defence design, animation, gaming and media in Bristol, and architecture, publishing and graphic design in Bath.

The design industry in the region is reliant on complex interactions between the private sector, public sector, not for profit educational institutions to provide talent, funding, opportunities for knowledge exchange, and to connect designers with their clients and collaborators. This has led to an in depth understanding of the design eco-system and this inter-connectivity was found to be a key factor in the success of Design in the region and why designers choose to live and work in Bristol and Bath.

The project has also demonstrated that the region’s distinctive industrial history and cultural heritage play a significant role in the strength of the region as a centre of Design.

The project team found that data provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the usual route for provision of sector data, is not wholly sufficient to fully understand the Design subject area and industry and nor were traditional approaches of mapping sectors deemed sufficient. The project team developed an innovative research method; a multi-method approach using quantitative and qualitative analysis which combined large-scale surveys, data collection, interviews with designers and a technique called ‘Enterprise Imaging’. The Enterprise Imaging tool creates a visual image of design-led projects, in this case 45 Design-led enterprises within the Bristol and Bath region. The mapping created through Enterprise Imaging revealed the detail of the complex networked design ecosystem, and traced the differences between freelance designers, small to medium enterprises and large organisations. This transferable methodology more significantly has wider applicability across other regions to better reveal insights about the role and value of Design. The team is now focusing on creating a toolkit to enable the method to be applied to other regions and cities.

The Bristol and Bath by Design project was co-funded with the Design Council and is a collaborative initiative between the University of the West of England, University of Bristol, and Bath Spa University, along with partners West of England Local Enterprise Partnership, West of England Design Forum, Creative Bath, Bristol Media and REACT.

The AHRC’s Cultural Value Project has catalysed greater awareness and understanding of the broader questions of the value of arts and culture.

As highlighted above (see the spotlight on the Connected Communities programme on p.20), the AHRC-led RCUK Connected Communities programme has emphasised that assessment values typically used for research collaborations, especially with communities, rarely capture the totality of the effect the project, or collaboration, has had; a multi-layered consideration is required. 46 This line of approach was also explored within the Starting from Values – Evaluating intangible Legacies project which explored different ways in which collaborative projects, particularly those involving community groups, could articulate different legacies of a project which reflected the aims and objectives of all the stakeholders involved. The research assistant on the project, Dr Gemma Burford, has since established herself as a sole trader under the business name Green Spiral Arts, offering arts-centred evaluation and strategic planning services inspired by the values-centred approach developed during the project.

The AHRC’s Cultural Value Project (CVP) has catalysed greater awareness and understanding of the broader questions of the value of arts and culture, both in the UK and internationally. The two-year CVP generated a considerable body of evidence which formed the backdrop to its final report published in March 2016.47 It drew on the findings of 46 Research Development Awards, 19 Critical Review awards, and 7 Expert workshops bringing together the expertise of academics from over 50 UK universities with creative and cultural practitioners. It emphasises the need to challenge normative approaches to evaluation and the need for multi-criteria analyses which encompass a range of relevant approaches used appropriately, not least because as John Holden noted in The Ecology of Culture, his CVP Research Development Award report:

“Culture is an organism not a mechanism; it is much messier and more dynamic than linear models allow.”48

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RESEARCH PERFORMANCE AND ECONOMIC IMPACT METRICS

Introduction

The Research Councils have agreed a revised set of common indicators on performance with the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). These indicators draw on information from grants databases and the researchfish® system. Researchfish® is an online system, supported by Researchfish Ltd and used to collect information on the outputs, outcomes and impact of Research Council-funded research. Research Council funded researchers are asked to record these data all year-round and, once a year, to formally submit this information.

Notes on Common Indicators data

The outcomes data included in the Common Indicators are not static. Researchers can enter data retrospectively, which may result in changes to individual indicators in subsequent Impact Reports. AHRC has used the researchfish® system for outcomes collection since 2014. As such, data for earlier years may not be complete.

Additional information on individual indicators is provided below. In general, information is only provided for indicators that are new or revised for the 2015-16 Impact report. Please note that the common outcomes indicators have been expanded to include a wider variety of outcomes types beyond publication, spin-outs and intellectual property as previously reported. The Common Question Set used by researchfish® is available from the Researchfish website (www.researchfish.com).

A particular output, for example a publication or a collaboration, might have arisen from more than one award. In this report, a particular output is always reported against each individual award where the unit of analysis is at the award level (for example the number of instances or distribution of activity). Duplicate outputs are removed, where possible, at the level of the type of output generated. Duplicate outputs are removed using system-generated codes to indicate when a researcher has attributed an output to more than one award. This cannot identify duplicate outputs where researchers have entered similar information independently of one another. In most cases, percentages in this report are rounded up or down to the nearest whole number and so some may appear as zero if this represents less than half of one per cent.
### AHRC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

**AHRC Total Funds Available**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011/12</th>
<th>2012/13</th>
<th>2013/14</th>
<th>2014/15</th>
<th>2015/16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.1 Budget allocation</strong> £m</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.2 Leverage</strong> £m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.1 Leverage from other Research Councils (£m and % of funds available)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.2 Leverage from private sector (£m and % of funds available)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.3 Leverage from other sources (£m and % of funds available)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.3 Additional funds leveraged by projects – total: amount (including cash and in-kind contributions)</strong> £m***</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### AHRC Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011/12</th>
<th>2012/13</th>
<th>2013/14</th>
<th>2014/15</th>
<th>2015/16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.1 Research Expenditure</strong> £m</td>
<td>54.9</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>51.9</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>59.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.1.2 Training Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>46.3</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>46.8</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>42.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.1.3 Other Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.1.4 Total net Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>107</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**

* The budget allocation relates to the Grant in Aid as received from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) previously the Department of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) as published in the AHRC’s Annual Report and Accounts http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/news/events/publications/annualreportandaccounts/

**Leveraged funding by AHRC as published in the AHRC’s Annual Report and Accounts. This amount excludes funding leveraged from the Digital R&D partnership with NESTA and Arts Council England.

*** This indicator reports the cash and in-kind contributions from partner organisations that were listed on the original research proposal. It does not include any further leverage funding that may have arisen during the course of the award

*This indicator reports all research expenditure. In previous Impact Reports, this indicator was referred to as ‘responsive mode expenditure’.
### Human Capital

#### 3.1 Number of Principal Investigators (on 1st April) *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of PIs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>452</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 3.2 Number of Research Fellowships (on 1st April) **

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Fellows</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 3.3 Number of Principal Investigators, Fellows, CO-Investigators on research grants (on 1st April) / the number of Research Organisations (including Independent Research Organisations) ***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># of people</th>
<th># of ROs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>1151</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>1171</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>1165</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>1358</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>1210</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* This indicator has now been standardised across Research Councils to report the number of PIs supported on research grants on the 1 April of each reporting year. It excludes PIs supported through intramural investments, unless they are in receipt of a research grant.

** Number of Research Fellows: This indicator has now been standardised across Research Councils to report the number of Research Fellows supported on the 1 April of each reporting year. The number Research Fellows is a subset of the number of Principal Investigators. For AHRC this indicator includes awardholders on the Leadership Fellowship scheme and does not include other early fellowship schemes.

*** This indicator reports the number of Principal Investigators and Co-Investigators supported on research grants on the 1 April of each reporting year. This indicator also includes the number of Research Organisations (including Independent Research Organisations) where these PIs and Co-Is are located.

### Human Capital – Postgraduates

#### 4.1 Number of new doctoral students within the financial year reported

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>796</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 4.2 Doctoral submission rate %

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Submission Rate %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 4.3 The first destination of AHRC Doctoral Students *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>2011/12</th>
<th>2012/13</th>
<th>2013/14</th>
<th>2014/15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University</td>
<td>62.9</td>
<td>54.7</td>
<td>58.6</td>
<td>52.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public sector</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private sector</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown/other</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>25.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The destination of leavers data is drawn from the HESA Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) dataset. All Research Councils now use a harmonised set of categories for this indicator. The categories included for "Unknown/other" include: Engaged in Study [3.8% for 2014/15]; Not known or not reported [4.6% for 2014/15]; Other employment [4.8% for 2014/15]; School (Education other) [3.3% for 2014/15]; Self employed, Voluntary and Unpaid work [7.5% for 2014-15].
### AHRC COLLABORATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS AND SECONDMENTS

#### Collaborations, partnerships and secondments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year the award started</th>
<th>2011/12</th>
<th>2012/13</th>
<th>2013/14</th>
<th>2014/15</th>
<th>2015/16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.1 Instances of collaborations and partnerships reported at point of application and % of awards reporting at least one partner organisation*</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year the collaborations, partnerships were first reported</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.2 Instances of new collaborations and partnerships reported in researchfish**</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2 Instances of secondments reported in researchfish***</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This indicator relates to collaborations reported within the research proposal at the point of application. It includes the proportion of awards (expressed as a percentage) reporting at least one partner organisation at the point of application.

** This indicator relates to new collaborations as reported within researchfish®. Collaborations are only included in the indicator for the first year that they were reported, but may continue for several years after this date. Researchers may also report collaborations that were in place at the point of application.

*** This indicator relates to secondments as reported within researchfish®. Secondments are only included in the indicator for the first year that they were reported, but may continue for several years after this date.

### AHRC KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

#### Publications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year the publication was reported as published</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1.1. Number of journal articles</td>
<td>565</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>827</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1.2. Number of books</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1.3. Number of books chapters</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>489</td>
<td>375</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A publication may have arisen from more than one award. Duplicate publication outputs are removed, where possible, using system-generated codes to indicate when an individual researcher has attributed an output to more than one award. This cannot identify duplicate outputs where different researchers have entered similar information independently of one another. It is not feasible to calculate the precise number of unique publications as some publications / publication types do not have unique identifiers (e.g. a Digital Object Identifier). The indicator is intended to provide information on the trends over time, rather than a precise measure of total publication output.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year the award started</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1.4 Number/proportion of awards that gave rise to at least one example of a publication within five years of award start date</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other research outputs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year the outcome was realised</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.2.1 Instances of artistic and creative outputs reported</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2.2 Instances of research databases and models reported</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2.3 Instances of software and technical products reported</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2.4 Instances of research tools and methods reported</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2.5 Instances of medical products, interventions and clinical trials</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some of the data within researchfish® do not have an associated time stamp

- Instances of artistic and creative outputs: For AHRC there are 1784 instances of artistic and creative outputs which do not include a time stamp and which are therefore excluded from the common indicators. This represents 44% of the Council’s artistic and creative outputs data within researchfish®.
- Instances of research databases and models: AHRC, there are 665 instances of research databases and models which do not include a time stamp and which are therefore excluded from the common indicators. This represents 70% of the Council’s research databases and models data within researchfish®.
- Instances of research tools and methods: For AHRC, there are 68 instances of research tools and methods which do not include a time stamp and which are therefore excluded from the common indicators. This represents 42% of the Council’s research tools and methods data within researchfish®.

**AHRC INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

**Intellectual Property (includes patents, copyrights, trademarks)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year the outcome was realised</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.3 Instances of IP reported</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This indicator includes patents, copyrights and trademarks. Some of the data within researchfish® do not have an associated time stamp. For AHRC, there are 5 instances of intellectual property which do not include a time stamp and which are therefore excluded from the common indicators. This represents 33% of the intellectual property data within researchfish®.

**AHRC SPIN-OUTS/START-UPS**

**Spin-outs/start-ups created and/or significantly supported**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year the outcome was realised</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.4 Instances of spin-outs/start-ups*</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Instances of spin-outs / start-ups: Within researchfish®, researchers are asked to provide details of links between their research and the establishment, development or growth of new private sector organisations, including for profit and not-for-profit organisations. Supplemental information was used to identify duplicate spin-out companies where available (e.g. Companies House IDs for UK companies).

* The spin-outs and start-ups reported by the AHRC’s Knowledge Exchange Hubs for the Creative Economy were reported after the formal researchfish® reporting period and will be included within these metrics in the following year.
### Further Funding

This indicator includes further funding reported by award holders to continue or develop the research, or to support the translation of outcomes into practical application.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year the award started</th>
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<th>2011</th>
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<td>#</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.1 Number/proportion of awards with at least one instance of further funding within 5 years of the start date</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### AHRC Engagement Activities

Researchers engage with a wide variety of audiences and stakeholders to communicate research outcomes, disseminate knowledge, stimulate public awareness, and encourage public engagement and dialogue. The engagement activities indicator helps demonstrate the extent to which researchers are engaging with audiences outside academia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.1 Number/proportion of awards with at least one instance of engagement within 5 years of the start date</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### AHRC Influence on Policy and Practice

Research may be used to inform policy and practice, which may subsequently lead to wider societal and economic benefit. The influence on policy and practice indicator helps demonstrate the extent to which researchers are informing decision making within government departments and elsewhere.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2011</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.1 Number/proportion of awards with at least one instance of policy influence within 5 years of the start date</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bibliography and references


DCMS, Creative Industries Economic Estimates: Focus on Exports (June 2016).


Relevant AHRC-produced films

Tangible Memories Film (2015)
http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/research/readwatchlisten/filmsandpodcasts/tangiblememories/

New Generations Thinkers Film (2015)
http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/research/readwatchlisten/filmsandpodcasts/new-generation-thinkers-film/

One fine day in Cardiff: the CAER Heritage Project (2015)
http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/research/readwatchlisten/filmsandpodcasts/onefinedayincardiffthecaerheritageproject/

From Bombay to the Western Front (2015)
http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/research/readwatchlisten/filmsandpodcasts/frombombaytothewesternfront/

History and Humanitarianism (2015)
http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/research/readwatchlisten/filmsandpodcasts/history-and-humanitarianism/

AHRC Research in Film Awards (2015)
http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/research/readwatchlisten/filmsandpodcasts/ahrc-research-in-film-awards/

Staging the Henrician Court (2016)
http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/research/readwatchlisten/filmsandpodcasts/

Understanding the Value of Arts and Culture (2016)
http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/research/readwatchlisten/filmsandpodcasts/cvp-animation/

Imaging the Future (2016)
http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/research/readwatchlisten/filmsandpodcasts/imagining-our-future/